

IRAN NEWS



"By Fully Supporting an un-Islamic Movement in the Region, the U.S. Has Once Again Proven the Falsehood of Its Claims Regarding Human Rights and Women's Emancipation," Leader

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Palestinian Negotiator Saeb Erakat (L) with His Israeli Counterpart Dan Shomron (R) and U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross (C) After the Erez Conference, Oct. 6



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Leader Spotlights U.S. Policy Anomaly

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, yesterday told Friday prayer leaders that the U.S.'s current approach to developments in one of Iran's neighbor countries exposed the true nature of their propaganda against Iran when it came to the defense of human and women's rights. He said the U.S.'s attitude indicated its deception.

are not accepted by Islam," the Leader explained.
"If someone is talking about being reactionary, bigotry and a disregard for humanity, he should cite them as an example."
Ayatollah Khamenei said the world was witness to America's use of admiring terms when speaking about the issue. "Not only are they not condemning" the situation, the U.S. was "standing behind them," an attitude which clarified the true meaning of U.S. propaganda on the rights of women and other matters, he said.
The Leader said some politicians had implicitly stated that the

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JRM to Field a Cleric for Presidency Faezeh Hashemi Confirms G-6 Letter

BY M. SERJOOIE

TEHRAN - While another Majlis deputy confirmed G-6's move for a common presidential candidate with the rightists, a highly placed source talking to IRAN NEWS said that the Jame-e Rouhaniat-e Mobarez (JRM) will field a cleric for the next presidency.



HASHEMI

was discussed.
A respected Alim, Ayatollah Kani, told the minister: "The

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NEWS ANALYSIS

The source, who following his faction's policy, requested anonymity, said: "In a recent meeting between JRM's seniormost leader, Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, and a Cabinet minister the name of the next presidential candidate

Arafat Hopes for Rapid Progress from Israeli-Palestinian Talks

BEIT HANOUN, GAZA STRIP (AFP) - Israel and the Palestinians entered a second day of critical peace talks yesterday focusing on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from Hebron, as tensions eased after last month's bloody clashes.

The two sides met under a press blackout in a guest house at Beit Hanoun on the Palestinian side of the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, joined by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross.
Earlier yesterday, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said he hoped for rapid progress in the talks now that they were getting down to concrete issues after Sunday's opening meeting, which dealt with organizational questions.

"Sunday, it was the steering committee. Discussions on Hebron, on security, on the Israeli

army redeployment, the airport in Gaza will start today," he told reporters yesterday ahead of a visit to Egypt and talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, that the talks were going on in a "good atmosphere" and he was "convinced a new accord on Hebron" would be reached.

He said he aimed to launch "final status talks" with the Palestinians, on hold since he took office last June, after resolving "Hebron and other issues."

The Erez talks, meant to go continuously until an agreement is reached, were brokered by the United States in a bid to salvage to peace process after the worst Israeli-Palestinian clashes in 30 years left 84 dead late last month.

Local Administration Minister Saeb Erakat leads the Palestinian team while former Chief of Staff Dan Shomron heads the Israeli

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CONDOLENCES

Mr. Majid Ghasemi, Deputy Energy Minister

We were deeply saddened by the news of the demise of your beloved father. Please accept our sincere condolences. We pray that the Almighty may grant his soul eternal peace and bestow forbearance upon you and your bereaved family.

Mohammad Soltanifar
Morteza Firoozi

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- SALAMIN:** Tomato pizza sauce, mozzarella cheese, sausage, dry blunny
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EDITORIAL

EU Presence Essential for Attaining Palestinian Goals

Time is changing so fast that 'perhaps the pro-Zionist elements in the United States have failed to grasp the day-to-day transformations in the world,' commented one colleague of ours while coming across a piece of news from the Middle East regarding the on-going so-called peace process.

Although he should not have been, our colleague was surprised while reading the news: on his computer that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ruled out a European Union presence at the Israeli-Palestinian talks which started Sunday at the dusty border checkpoint of Erez Crossing in Gaza Strip.

The United States, just after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, egotistically thought that it could be the sole global power and could dictate its will to the rest of the world.

But a great disillusionment was waiting the occupant of the White House and also the authors of that country's foreign policy.

In early 1992 clear messages were sent to Washington, particularly from Moscow, that after an end of the Cold War issues related to world affairs should be tackled on the basis of equal partnership.

As it was expected, the United States resisted these efforts particularly those of France. While the late Francois Mitterrand took the issue lightly, President Jacques Chirac attaches great significance to the Third World issues and clearly tries to convey to the U.S. that Europe has to play its role in the overall affairs of the world.

South African President Nelson Mandela was right when he paid tribute to the French president and said that 'Chirac is one of the most outstanding statesmen that we have in the world.'

Chirac, in the recent months, tried his best to involve Europe in Middle Eastern issues as he and others realized that the U.S. had lost its trustworthiness as a just and honorable mediator and broker of peace.

It was French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette who raised the EU participation at the recently held Washington summit attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, King Hussein of Jordan and hosted by President Bill Clinton. The U.S. just ignored the French request.

Not only the Palestinians, but also others who keep an eye on Middle Eastern affairs, have realized that Israel is America's top priority and words such as political norm, national reputation and dignity carry no weight while Americans deal with the Zionists.

Now its own brand of peace is headed for a head-on collision with realities. The U.S. wants to keep the EU away from the mediating process while one of the parties in the dispute, namely the Palestinians, welcome the EU as a mediator.

Interestingly enough, the EU is Israel's main trading partner, but on the basis of certain principles, the same EU pledged \$650 million to finance Palestinian reconstruction. The EU pledged another \$26 million in aid to Arafat when he visited Luxembourg en route to the Washington Summit.

On the initiative of France and Italy, the EU leaders dispatched Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring to the Middle East to be present at the negotiating table of the Palestinians and the Israelis.

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Azeri Parliament Vice-Speaker Confers with President, Speaker

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here yesterday that in order to make better use of Iran and Azerbaijan's potentials for expansion of commercial, economic and cultural relations, desirable planning should be adopted.

Hojatolislam Rafsanjani was speaking to Azeri National Assembly (Milli Majlis) Deputy Chairman Yashar Aliyev.

He added that considering their religious, cultural and historical commonalities, Tehran and Baku have not managed to properly use their potentials for improvement of commercial, economic and cultural ties.

He also underlined the will of

Iranian officials to help solve difficulties facing the people of Nakhichevan.

Aliyev said for his part that the second session of Iran-Azerbaijan joint economic commission would be a suitable opportunity to reach agreements for expansion of mutual cooperation in the fields of post, transportation, fisheries, agriculture and animal husbandry.

He thanked Iran's government and people for their assistance to Azeri people, particularly to the people of Nakhichevan. He called for continuation of aid to remove Nakhichevan's people's hardships.

Aliyev also met Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri. He said that upgrading parliamentary ties



President (R) receives Azeri official

Photo by Abdi

between Tehran and Baku was of great importance and called for the formation of friendship groups at the two countries' parliaments.

Aliyev expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his talks with senior Iranian officials. He hoped that bilateral ties would be upgraded to a favorable level in light of the execution of the reached agreements.

Referring to ratification of a bill by the Azeri Assembly calling for cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan for implementation of Shakh Deniz project, Aliyev said that cooperation between the two countries had been finalized and there was no obstacle in the way of its implementation.

Hojatolislam Nateq-Nouri said for his part that Iran-Azerbaijan

friendship group would soon be formed at the Iranian Majlis and its members would be named in the near future.

The Speaker called for holding of an inter-parliamentary session of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

He referred to Iran's efforts in the settling of the Karabakh crisis. Hojatolislam Nateq-Nouri said Iran believed in the territorial integrity of the independent states and hoped for peaceful settlement of the Karabakh crisis through negotiations.

Nateq-Nouri also welcomed Azerbaijan's proposal for cooperation and exchange of views between the Iranian and Azeri female members of parliaments, IRNA reported.



Majlis Speaker (R) with Aliyev

Photo by Hattami

Formation of Iran-Bangladesh Friendship Group Discussed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Dhaka Mahmoud Bayat met Bangladeshi Parliament speaker Homayoun Rashid Chudri in Dhaka Sunday to review establishment of a parliamentary friendship group.

Issues of mutual interest as well as agenda of the next inter-parliamentary conference of the Islamic countries which is to be held in Tehran October 22-23 were among topics discussed by the two officials.

Chudri said that a Bangladeshi parliamentary delegation will attend the inter-parliamentary meeting in Tehran, IRNA reported.

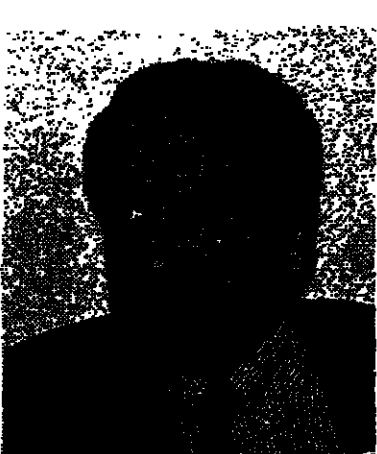
Iran Won't Allow Anti-Turkey Activity, Rafsanjani

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told the outgoing Turkish Ambassador to Iran Ahmet Mithar Balkan yesterday that there are enormous grounds for Iran-Turkey cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels and therefore both sides should make optimum use of the existing capacities.

President Rafsanjani said that Iran attaches great importance to protection of security and tranquillity on its border areas and does not allow any group to get involved in anti-Turkey activities from Iranian territory.

Rafsanjani recommended more cooperation between the two countries' border guards to safeguard common border.

Balkan said that his mission in Tehran has been the most fruitful



BALKAN

part of his diplomatic career, IRNA reported.

Balkan voiced willingness of Turkish officials to consolidate relations with Tehran especially in the wake of a visit to Tehran of Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan last month.

2 Iranians Die in Kuwaiti Prison Gunfight

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - Two Iranians were killed and 13 other prisoners wounded when a gunfight erupted over drugs at Kuwait's central prison, the Arab Times newspaper said yesterday.

Seven of the injured were taken to hospital for treatment after the fight broke out Sunday night between Iranian and Kuwaiti inmates at the prison on Kuwait City's outskirts, sources close to the prison told the paper.

The Kuwaitis are members of the Mutairi tribe, they said. The English-language paper did not say how the prisoners obtained the guns or give more details on the dispute, while the Interior Ministry said it had no information about the report.

Deputy FMs of Caspian Sea Littoral States Meet

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Deputy foreign ministers of the five Caspian Sea littoral states opened a four-day meeting in Moscow yesterday to discuss their governments' views on the legal regime and joint exploitation of the Caspian Sea.

The meeting is expected to draw up the draft statement of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the littoral states due to be held in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, in November.

The deputy foreign ministers in the Moscow meeting will exchange views on the legal regime of the sea-bed, under sea-bed, shipping procedure and protection

of environment of the world's largest lake.

The participants are also expected to pave the way for the adoption of a convention on the exploitation system of the sea.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi and Foreign Ministry's Director General for the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS) Ali Majedi attended the meeting which is underway at the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry.

Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Kazakhstan are the countries bordering the Caspian Sea, IRNA reported.

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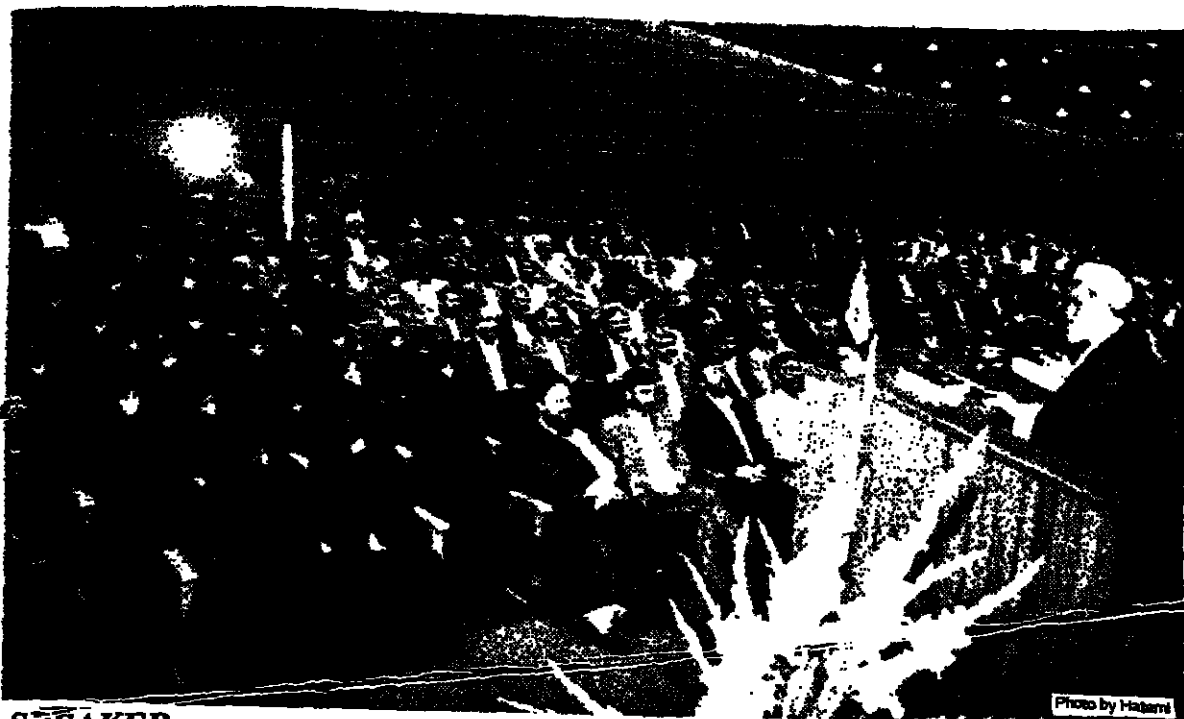
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Speaker Speaker



Speaker official



SPEAKER:

Formation of Women's Supreme Council, a Necessity

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said here yesterday that formation of the Women's Supreme Council presided over by the highest executive official was necessary for decisions regarding women and execution of laws concerning women's rights.

Hojatolislam Nateq-Nouri was addressing a group of the Interior Ministry's officials. He

said that an increase in the number of female Majlis deputies in the fifth term indicated the importance Islam attaches to women's status in society, adding that Iranian female MPs are well-educated, efficient and active.

The Speaker said that among important steps taken by Majlis to upgrade the social status of Iranian women was its recent decision to form a special commission on women and family affairs in Majlis.

He added that lots of work have been done in Iran for women, but the most important task was the removal of the allegations leveled at Islam under the pretext of defending women's rights.

The Majlis Speaker said that banning women's participation in social activities and denying them access to education in the name of Islam by the Taliban in Afghanistan could be cited as examples of false allegations raised against Islam, IRNA reported.

President Says Postal Service Honest and Speedy

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said yesterday that the postal network walks parallel with the advancing world, and the more people become civilized the more the role of post becomes conspicuous.

He was speaking to members of the Iran Postal Company to commemorate World Post Day. The President said precision, speed and honesty were the principle requirements for Iran's postal services to progress.

He said the rendering of 100 different postal services in a progressive community was a valuable contribution to the nation.

"This shows that besides acquiring scientific and technical competence, the Iran Post Company has endeavored itself to government departments by exhibiting increased honesty and integrity," Rafsanjani added.

Minister of P.T.T. Gholamreza Gharazi said the 12,500 employees of Iran Post Company were rendering hundreds of different services to the nation.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 61, RANKS (AL-SAFF)

In the Name of God

The Beneficent, the Merciful

Who unto God are my supporters?

Said the disciples: 'we are God's supporters.'

Thenceforth, a party of the Israelites,

Embraced the faith, whereas the other part,

Defied it: then We gave a hand

Unto the faithful 'gainst their foes,

(F.N.)

And they above them rose.

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: B.A.S. Publication Tel. 333 4844-5

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:52
Evening (Maghreb)	17:58
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:33
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:05



TETE-A-TETE

Taliban's Secret Communique!

'According to latest reports, Taliban leaders have warned their main, rival factions not to seek help from neighboring countries in defending their territory; isn't it incredibly interesting, master?'

'You won't know what "interesting" means, young man, until you know about a secret communique Taliban leaders sent to their field commanders, of which I got a copy through a friend in Kabul.'

'Oh God, please read it to me, I'm dying to hear it, won't you?'

'On the condition only that you keep it a confidential, tete-a-tete matter.'

'Oh, sure, I promise you that, upon my journalistic word of honor.'

'Fine, but, you see, I have to translate it, it's been written in a stupidly mixed, Persian-Pashu, Biblical style, well, here are the main points:

'... We have ordered our rivals not to seek any foreign help, but there's nothing to worry about, we shall continue to receive help from our brethren in the U.S.A., Arabia, Pakistan and other sources we like ... we are instructed by our Evangelical brethren in the CIA not to allow any Europeans to play any part in Afghan or M.E. affairs, with the possible exception of the U.K. because, according to our American inspirers, the British government usually behaves as an American mole in NATO, EU, UNO and other places ... on the execution of our zany, religious injunctions, there's no cause for alarm either because, according to a special memo from Mr. Clinton, we are free to kick women around, cut their hair, force men to grow beards even if they happen to be Uzbeks, shoot people into Friday prayers, ban photography, etc ... Our CIA brethren assured us that in the lexicon of the American administration labels such as: violator of human rights, super-fundamentalist, fanatic, reactionary, terrorist, anti-woman and the like are reserved only for the popularly-elected government of the Islamic Republic of Iran ... in short, we have been given assurance that no matter what we do, we shall remain the Wahhabi apples of their eyes, and that our great Leader, whose social, political ideas go back to an epoch slightly before the appearance of caveman, is to them much more enlightened than many American Democrats or Republicans such as Mr. D'Amato ... (Oh, there is a P.S.) P.S. Russia is too weak, their president is going to have a surgical operation, so have no worries, enjoy your short stay in Kabul, have trust in Satan.

Signed: Chief of Special Operations For Export
Of Hashish to Europe & America,
Mulla Ablah Abdul-Amrika Trayterzai.

'Thank you very much, master, it was most enlightening!'

ABU SINA

Georgian Diplomats Graduation Ceremonies Held

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Seven Georgian diplomats yesterday graduated from the 16th specialized-political training program held by the Diplomatic Training Center here.

The ceremonies were held in the presence of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Georgian ambassador to Tehran.

This 44-day program covered 22 courses which were taught by 20 professors of political science, international relations, economy, and law, as well as 8 senior Foreign Ministry specialists.

Addressing the session, Velayati referred to the two countries' cultural historical and political commonalities and expressed hope for further cementing Iran-Georgia relations.

The Georgian official said the recent program indicates the symbolic and deep love of the two countries for each other and voiced hope that other diplomats would be dispatched to Iran in the future.

Certificates of the graduates were awarded by the Iranian foreign minister at the end of the session.

CANADIAN DIPLOMAT:

Canada Ready to Expand Ties with Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Canada's Ambassador to Tehran Charles Michael de Salbery said here yesterday that despite U.S. opposition, Iran and Canada are to exchange \$750 million worth of goods this year.

Salbery said that his country is ready to raise volume of its transactions and cooperation with Iran or invest in the fields of energy,

telecommunications, packaging industries and foodstuff products.

Despite drought and a drop in oil price, said Salbery, volume of commercial transactions between Iran and Canada last year stood at nearly \$600 million.

Iran is Canada's second major trade partner, added the Canadian diplomat. He said that Ottawa was ready to expand its ties with Iran in all dimensions.

BOROUJERDI:

Current Situation in Afghanistan Due to Foreign Intervention

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi said here Sunday that the current Afghan developments had been the consequence of foreign intervention and massive deployment of externally-supported troops.

He said, without reference to any foreign power, that ever since the military involvement of that power in Afghanistan, the balance of power had tilted to one side.

He continued saying: "Iran has never sought to dispatch troops to Afghanistan for intervening in regional developments. Iran considers foreign intervention in Afghanistan as a factor aggravating the crisis and regional instability and maintains that the flames of the fire burning in Afghanistan will eventually engulf those who fan it."

"Iran has always tried to defuse the regional crises primarily through politics not militarily."

Iran has repeatedly said that it was not partial of the policy of intervention, especially militarily, in the internal affairs of other states, IRNA reported.

"As the result of Iran's mediation among Afghan groups lives of many Muslims were saved. Had it



not been for this mediation, we same war that went on between the Taliban and Rabbani's government would have erupted and continued among all other groups in Afghanistan."

OGATA:

Iran an Exception in Erosion of Refugee Protection

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata warned yesterday that despite international commitments to uphold the right of asylum, standards of refugee protection was actually being eroded in many countries.

She cited Iran as one of the positive signals for refugee issues in 1996, when it opened its borders in September to allow 40,000 Kurds take refuge from fighting in Northern Iraq.

In a speech at the annual meeting of the UNHCR's 51-member Executive Committee, Ogata reaffirmed the right to seek asylum from persecution and urged decision-makers to combat prejudice and share the burden of major asylum countries.

Her criticism of industrialized countries follows Iran's complaints in regard to the lack of international response to the plight of Iraqi Kurds fleeing to its border last month, having already to cope with the world's largest number of

refugees on meager aid.

According to extracts of her Geneva speech, the high commissioner attacked the burden as being "very unevenly divided, between and within continents" and that it was essential that the humanitarian character of asylum be preserved.

Access to territory, she said, had been "either denied outright, as a result of push-offs of boat people and rejections at borders, or complicated by new legislative restrictions."

In a further slight to some Western countries, Ogata also urged decision-makers to "dramatize" the scale of some asylum-seeker problems, saying requests were declining in most industrial countries.

On the massive obstacles being erected to prevent civilians returning to their homes in Bosnia, she pleaded that those unable to return not to be pushed back and for their right to return not to be surrendered, IRNA reported from London.

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total deposit of more than 1.2 billion tons of copper ore with a copper grade of 0.7 percent.

The GCS produces a range of slag abrasives from molten copper slag by quenching in water and also from solid slag by crushing, grinding, and classification.

The abrasives are sold under the name of GCS, and are available in 5 grades ranging from GCS 1 to GCS 5.

We are in a position to supply a mixture of grades to allow the customers to choose the correct grade in which to produce the required cleanliness level, acceptable dust level, and anchor profile.

Our products have been approved and used by major ship yards, oil and gas companies, paint manufacturers, coating contractors, tank constructors, pressure vessel fabricators, off shore yards, etc.

GCS copper slag abrasives has a hardness of 7 on the moh's scale composed of multi-faceted grains with sharp edges and you cannot find even one piece of round or disk form and anypieces of GCS has effect on the surface which intum it increase speed of rust removing and uniform anchor profile and you cannot find any abrasive with this specification.

- GCS copper slag abrasives is also known to be Adustfree product

Because crack between molecules is very low and hardly broken and can use it at least two times as result of very low dust generation during blasting.

- GCS copper slag abrasives has a high specific gravity (3.5) which can result in higher impact energy particle than other abrasives thereby lowering the cost per square meter.

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Technical and economic studies reflect that exploitation of this mine requires a concentration factory with a capacity to concentrate 45,000 tons of copper ore per day.

This factory will annually produce 350,000 tons of copper concentrates with an average copper grade of 25 to 30 percent.

The copper grade of this concentrate amounts to 90,000 tons per year which will annually yield

\$300 million per year, with a view to the existing Molybdenum concentrate in this factory.

Once the Soongoon concentration factories become operational, this industry will generate employment for around 2,000 people in different sectors.

Exploitation of copper ore at 14 million tons per year will allow the Soongoon Copper Mine to yield copper for 25 years.

Located on the metal belt, Ahar Township has a high mineral potential.

This township's Mazraeh Copper Mine, with a reserve of 380,000 tons of copper ore with a 1.7 percent grade, is presently being exploited to yield copper concentrates.

Company for the Meydook Copper Mines Complex (Private Joint Stock)

LOCATION

The Meydook Copper Mine is located some 42 kilometers to the northeast of Shahr Babak along the northwest - southeast Iran belt and the country's metal mines' region known as the Copper Belt. The Meydook Copper Mine is situated 2,700 meters above sea level.

BACKGROUND

In the past, industrial exploitation and melting was done through

and the Meydook Copper Mine Complex.

EXPENSES

Rial expenses so far made.....120 billion rials Dollar expenses so far made.....3 million dollars

Expenses that will have to be made until the final stage: Total rial expenses.....200 billion rials

Total dollar expenses.....55 million dollars

In case the required financial resources are provided, the project will be completed within three years.

Based on designs for the first phase of the mine's exploitation, the factory will produce 2.4 million tons of copper concentrates with a 30 percent copper grade.

ACTIVITIES SO FAR UNDERTAKEN

1. Conducting exploratory operations by digging 50 wells totally amounting to 15,432 meters and seven tunnels totally amounting to 1,630 meters.

2. Preparing technical and economic reports on the mine and the copper processing factory with an annual capacity of 5 million tons of mineral material.

plementation of the project for access routes for the mines, the factory, and the camp with a length of 10 kilometers.

9. Providing the design and implementation of the project for access routes for the country's road network with a length of 27 kilometers.

10. Leveling the outdoor site of the factory based on basic designs.

11. Drilling and equipping three water wells and using them for provision of the water needed during the construction phase with a water yield of 135 liters per second.

12. Setting up 20 kilowatt electricity networks in the camping site with a 3 megawatt capacity and an electricity network for the water provision wells with a capacity of 1,000 kilowatt amounting to a total 14 kilometers.

13. Creating a telephone network.

14. Establishing a system to air television programs in the region.

15. Providing welfare facilities for the employees close to the factory

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

1. Continuing to pick up the mineral waste.

2. Devising the project to complete the linking routes and the outdoor area of the factory.

3. Fencing the area and the factory.

4. Drawing maps of the details of the factory's installations.

5. Obtaining documents on the purchase of the factory's domestic and foreign equipment.

6. Preparing the factory's water provision project.

7. Preparing the factory's waste elimination and recycling waste water.

8. Devising and implementing the project for green area in the factory's premises.

Soongoon, a Gem Glittering on the Global Copper Belt

The Soongoon Copper Mine is located 75 kilometers to the northwestern part of Ahar Township in a mountainous region with a cold climate and long winters.

The Soongoon Copper Mine, which is 2,000 meters above sea level, is located 100 kilometers to the northeastern part of Tabriz Township.

Findings indicate that exploratory studies have been made on this mine up to 1,600 meters above sea level with an area of around 3 square kilometers. Such studies have reflected that the mine has a large copper mine with an overall reserve of 1.5 billion tons having a 0.7 percent copper grade with 350 grams Molybdenum per ton, 0.2 grams of gold per ton, and 2.7 grams of silver per ton.

Right now, the Soongoon Copper Mine is in the process of being equipped and producing opaque copper and picking up the waste.

TEST	RESULT
SILICA, WT. %	34.0
IRON OXIDE, WT. %	54.0
ALUMINUM OXIDE, WT. %	2.0
TITANIUM OXIDE, WT. %	0.10
MAGNESIUM OXIDE, WT. %	0.8
CALCIUM OXIDE, WT. %	6.5
MANGANESE OXIDE, WT. %	0.05
CHROMIUM OXIDE, WT. %	0.30
NICKEL OXIDE, WT. %	0.50
COPPER, WT. %	0.8
LEAD, WT. %	0.04
BISMUTH, PPM	<1.0
CADMIUM, PPM	<0.5
ARSENIC, PPM	<0.5
MERCURY, PPM	<0.5

LONESTAR TECHNICAL SERVICES

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SI 02 (QUARTZ) <0.5%

CERTIFICATE NO.
940 ALOO02

COPPER SLAG
IRANIAN ORIGIN

CLIENT: TRIZAC DUBAI
RESULT: NO: C-2571
THIS GIVES A % 27 INCREASE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF GCS IRAN OVER OMAN GRIT.

EMIRATES INDUSTRIAL LAB.

TEST	TEST METHOD	RESULT
APPARENT DENSITY, KG/DM3	ISO - 11127-3	3.53
MOHS HARDNESS	ISO - 11127-4	.7
MOISTURE CONTENT, WT. %	ISO - 11127-5	0.017
CONDUCTIVITY OF AQUEOUS EXTRACT, MS/M	ISO - 11127-6	27
WATER SOLUBLE CHLORIDES, WT. %	ISO - 11127-7	<0.001
BULK DENSITY		2.3

LONDON & SCANDINAVIAN METALLURGICAL LTD.



using the rich surface copper whose blast furnaces and slags were available in the region.

Academic and practical exploratory research in the year 1344 (1965) estimated the mineral reserve at 70 million tons.

Later studies have estimated the mineral reserve at 184 million tons with a 79 percent copper grade. The first phase specifies the exploitation of 85 million tons with a 1.01 percent copper grade. In addition, the processing factory with a capacity to turn 5 million tons of mineral material into concentrates with a 30 percent copper grade is economically justified.

Along this line, certain steps have been taken: Prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the German Metal Gesellschaft, the Sazmeh Company, and the Organization for Development and Renovation of Iran's Industries engaged in exploration, preparation of technical and economic reports, basic design work for exploitation of the mines, and determination of stages for the copper processing factory.

After the Islamic Revolution's victory, the same tasks have been carried out by Finland's Auto Kempo Company, Australia's Mine Prock, the National Company for Iran's Copper Industries,

3. Preparing designs to pick up the waste and mineral material, as well as picking up 37 million tons of mineral waste.

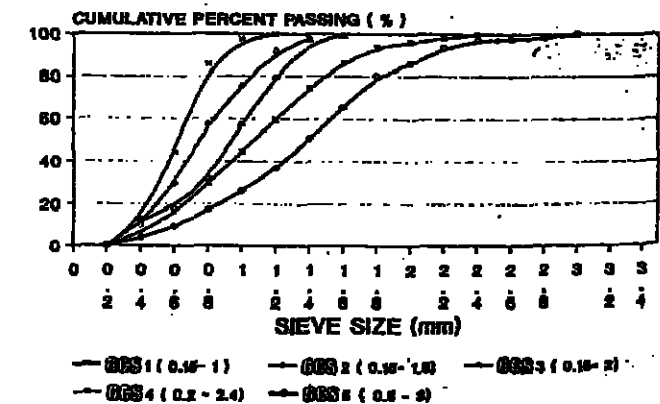
4. Providing the basic design for the copper processing factory and the relevant documents.

5. Providing the design and implementation of the required administrative and welfare facilities with a total infrastructure of 4,531 square meters.

6. Preparing the design and implementation of the project for store houses of goods and accessories with an infrastructure of 2,016 square meters.

7. Designing and implementing the project for store houses of explosive material with a total infrastructure of 2,000 square meters.

8. Preparing the design and im-



کتابخانه

from the 17th century or earlier are marked with an asterisk, indicating that they cannot be exported. But many of them end up outside the country anyway. "There was an auction last year at which a buyer bought a restricted piece at 10 o'clock in the morning, and by 4 p.m. that afternoon, it was in Hong Kong," an expert said.

"The next day, the same buyer was back bidding at the auction."

The best and cheapest collections of Chinese antiques for sale — particularly tomb objects — are said to be in the shops along Hong Kong's Hollywood Road, many of which get much of their stock from mainland sources that are at best suspect.

But as time goes by, the smuggling problem may ease as the proportion of local Chinese buyers grows along with the economy and number of millionaires.

had friendly relations with Pashtun speaking communities in Afghanistan. He said the Zionists were the source of corruption and the deviation of mankind.

"The propaganda by the arrogance — portraying a gloomy picture of the future of the country, disheartening the Iranian people, undermining the Islamic and revolutionary views of the nation and casting doubts about the issue of the guardianship and the Islamic government — has failed and shall fail. This is because the people are witnessing the ongoing construction work in the country and are not forgetting the deviation, corruption, discrimination and the misery of the government of the taghouts (those rebelling against God under the former regime)."

U.S. supported the group in order to confront Islamic Iran.

"The Islamic system is one of immense attraction and its message has spread throughout the world and penetrated the hearts of nations, despite the attempts of (U.S.) arrogance," he said, adding that despite the negative propaganda, the Islamic system would "continue to insist on practicing the Islamic tenets."

The meeting was held on the eve of a seminar of Friday prayer leaders. He spoke on the station of the clergy.

"The issue of the clergy is an important matter in a number of ways: As regards the clergy's awareness of their duty and social and individual conduct compatible with the status of the clergy, as regards the Muslim Iranian people's expectations... and as regards the sensitivity of the other nations and governments who want to find out the role and the influence of the clergy in the Islamic government..."

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the necessity for the clergy to avoid mundane affairs.

He also spoke of the people's profound and historical trust in the clergy, saying, "The victory of the Islamic Revolution was achieved thanks to the nation following the clergy... This trust is a precious asset resulting from the conduct of the great Islamic ulama over the centuries..."

The Leader said it was necessary to pay attention to the complexities of worldly affairs, which include position and fame. Some of society's dignitaries sought worldly affairs and the accumulation of wealth soon after the rise of Islam and following the passage of hardship and suffering during the early years. He said they were among the main sources of the deviation and decline of Islamic societies.

"Today our society is facing the same Divine trial. Today, after

the war, the wealthy generation has increased," he said. "Although comprehensive efforts should continue in order to wipe out the ugly face of poverty, to eliminate deprivation and to establish full Islamic justice, the danger exists that some, for various reasons including the feeling of being cheated and left behind, would be attracted to worldly affairs and forget about their duties..."

"We are not for poverty. And the country must be made prosperous by generating wealth and by work and construction... in such a way that not even a single location will remain poor," the Leader said.

"But all, especially the statesmen and the clergy whose conduct is used as a criterion, ought to exercise great care about themselves, their associates and their relatives... and strengthen spiritualism in every situation."

"Of course, the first class officials of the country and the great clergy have been and are acting well in this connection," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader pointed out the increased adverse publicity by U.S. and Zionist media which has been directed at Iran and the Islamic system. He said the Zionists were the source of corruption and the deviation of mankind.

"The propaganda by the arrogance — portraying a gloomy picture of the future of the country, disheartening the Iranian people, undermining the Islamic and revolutionary views of the nation and casting doubts about the issue of the guardianship and the Islamic government — has failed and shall fail. This is because the people are witnessing the ongoing construction work in the country and are not forgetting the deviation, corruption, discrimination and the misery of the government of the taghouts (those rebelling against God under the former regime)."

(A translation of the Leader's remarks appeared in the Akhbar news bulletin yesterday.)

Rouhaniat decided that a Rouhani (cleric) should be the candidate (for the next presidency).

The statement of Ayatollah Khamenei contradicts earlier rumors circulating in political circles of Tehran that non-clerics could become JRM presidential candidates.

The names of Foreign Minister Velayati and Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Director Ali Larjani were occasionally mentioned as would-be candidates for the next president.

In addition to Velayati and Larjani, other names mentioned as candidates for the top executive post are President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri. Both are cleric and members of the Central Executive Council of the JRM.

There were proposals from certain political factions in Iran that the Constitution should be amended to pave the way for a third term of Rafsanjani presidency. The Constitution does not allow a person to be a president

for a third consecutive term.

Anyway, the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei put a stop to speculations in this regard and blocked the way for amending the Constitution.

The Leader said, "President Rafsanjani in all his endeavors and in carrying out his responsibilities has rendered valuable services. Undoubtedly after his term of office is expired he will continue to shoulder significant responsibilities which will benefit the Islamic system."

"This means that Mr. Nateq-Nouri is the sole candidate of the JRM," one political analyst said.

Meanwhile, Majlis Deputy Faezeh Hashemi talking to IRAN NEWS confirmed a report in our yesterday's issue that a letter was written by the G-6 to the JRM for a mutually agreed candidate for the presidency.

Faezeh was elected to the current term of the Majlis on the support of the G-6.

Faezeh said, "Our objective in writing the letter was to coordinate our policies and closely cooperate with other factions."

Daughter of President Rafsanjani, Faezeh said: "This letter was also sent to other factions including the Society of Islamic Engineers."

She said that G-6 participated in the March-May elections of the Majlis with specific aims including the breaking of the monopoly of one or two factions.

Faezeh said the G-6, after taking an active part in the last elections, attracted more voters and created a healthy competition, and above all, the electorate had a wider choice for casting their votes.

"Whatever was done, was done in the interest of the people and the system," she said, adding: "The move was in the right direction and an expression of goodwill."

On the possible JRM response, to the G-6 letter, she said: "If the JRM does not accept the G-6 proposal, we have no option but to field our own candidate for the presidency," Faezeh said.

delegation. The negotiations will be held every day except Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The opening session ended with the creation of a special committee to discuss the Hebron withdrawal, along with commissions for security, economy, civilian affairs and Israeli redeployment from rural areas.

The talks aim to reach a formula by which to conduct the withdrawal, which Netanyahu has balked on, insisting the accords signed by his Labor predecessor Shimon Peres must be altered to provide better security for 450 Jewish settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians in Hebron.

But Palestinians have ruled out any renegotiation of the accords, by which the Israeli army was to have vacated 80 percent of the city last March.

International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said the Palestinians would accept the toughening of security provisions already made in the accords, such

as reinforcing the international observer force on the ground in the volatile town.

"The number of soldiers of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) can easily be raised, from 200 to 1,000," he told a press conference yesterday, adding that the number of joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in the city could also be increased.

The TIPH is currently made up of around 35 Norwegian soldiers who have been conducting unarmed patrols of the city since May.

Shaath said the Israelis "so far have not presented any concrete propositions (on Hebron). But any proposition making a breach in the agreement would be rejected."

Meanwhile, Israel yesterday further eased its blockade of the Palestinian territories imposed since last month's bloody clashes by ending the closures of the northern West Bank towns of Tulkarm and Qalqilya yesterday.

Israel lifted closures of the Palestinian towns of Jericho and Bethlehem over the weekend in a bid to ease tensions during the Erez talks.

HAMAS Calls for New Intifada

BEIRUT, LEBANON — The Islamic group HAMAS called yesterday for a new Intifada (uprising) against Israeli forces in the Palestinian territories after the "failure" of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"We consider that the failure of the Washington Summit and the negotiations at Beit Hanoun (Erez), which did not satisfy the just demands of our people, constitutes a green light for our masses and Mujahedin brigades to resume resistance with all available means against the crime of the tunnel and the other crimes of the evil occupier," HAMAS said in a statement in Beirut.

It criticized Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) for "holding to the (peace) accords, repressing the Intifada of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, quelling the anger of our heroic people against the tunnel and pursuing the sterile talks taking place under conditions imposed by the Zionists."

The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) said the ongoing talks represented a "failure" because they were taking place under Israeli-imposed conditions and were aimed at "distracting our people with more false promises."

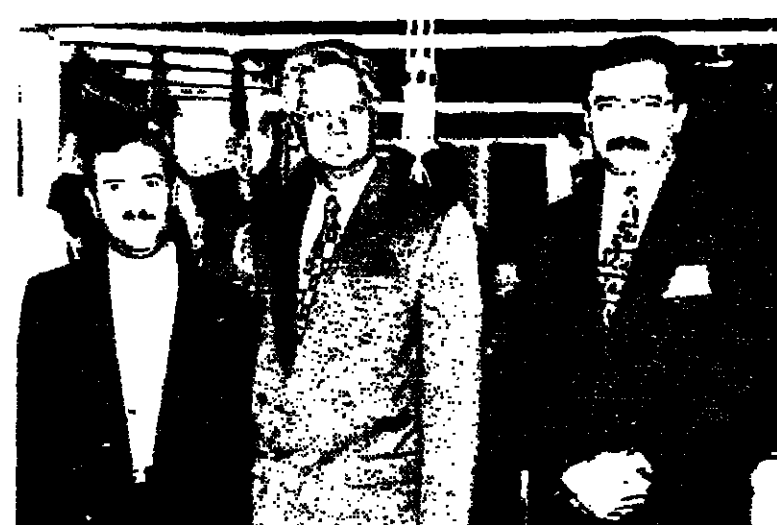
"Continuing the talks on the basis of the determination of the PA to repress resistance acts and popular uprisings as well as the resumption of cooperation with Zionist intelligence services is a free gift offered to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," HAMAS said.

1st Children, Science, Society Festival in Tehran

TEHRAN — Concurrent with the International Children's Day, the Bahman Cultural House holds the first Children, Science, Society Festival (for boys and girls) today from 9 to 12 a.m.

The festival will be held in a drive to acquaint the children with science and social activities and to teach them the social and environmental concerns.

According to the Bahman Cultural House's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the Festival will be held in col-



Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali (C) hosted a reception to mark his country's National Day at the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair. Iran Free Trade Zone Head Morteza Alviri (L) was the chief guest. Bangladesh Embassy Counselor and Head of Chancery Mustafa Kamal (R) along with a number of Iranian and Bangladeshi businessmen was present at the reception.

(Photo by ABDI)

Hope for Improved Foreign Investment Laws Still High

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN — If monetary and banking regulations for Iran's Free Trade Zones are approved, the current problems facing foreign investment would, to a great extent, be resolved, according to a trade official yesterday.

In an address at Tehran International Trade Fair, Mohammadreza Yazdampah, the managing director of Kish Island Free Trade Zone (KFTZ), explained that so far much has been said about these new regulations. "We hope that the law will be finalized soon."

Last year, some 600 thousand tourists visited Kish Island and that number is expected to increase to 800 thousand this year.

Yazdampah said around 110 "agreements in principle" on tourism, industry and commerce have been signed for Kish, "half of which will go on stream within the next two years."

He said a vehicle manufacturing plant is being built in the Island by the Mining and Industry Bank and a British partner. With 9 billion rials capital, it will produce 500 passenger vehicles a year. It should start in February 1997.

"The private sector has invested approximately 500 billion rials in Kish Island," the KFTZ managing director said. Exports from Kish will hit \$50 million within two years, he said.

MJF Pins Hopes on New \$100m Pakistan Project

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN — The Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation (MJF) is competing for an international tender to build two large bridges on the Indus River in Pakistan.

The project is valued at \$100 million, said the deputy managing director of the MJF and chief of its Housing Organization, Seyed Mohammad Alizadeh, in a press interview here yesterday.

Alizadeh added that the MJF is carrying out \$58 million worth of projects in Pakistan, \$7 million in Jeddah and \$3 million in Turkmenistan.

These projects include road building, the laying of gas pipelines, town building and the construction of refineries.

He said that this year the MJF will implement 150 to 200 billion rials worth of development projects within the country for the government.

Syria Calls for European Role in Peace Process

DAMASCUS, SYRIA — An official Syrian newspaper called yesterday for a "more effective" European role in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process with Israel.

"Syria and the Arabs have always welcomed the efforts of Europe and have since the Madrid Peace Conference (in 1991) tried to have Europe adopt a more effective role," said the government daily Tishrin.

It hailed the efforts of France to forge a united European stand since the peace process was launched in Madrid under the sponsorship of Washington and Moscow.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, whose country currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency, met Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat yesterday and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the previous day.

The Irish foreign minister was sent to the Middle East by a EU summit held Saturday in Dublin, to add a European input to the vital talks.

But U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, whose country is a key ally of Israel, has ruled out an EU presence at the talks. The Jewish state itself accuses Europe of being too pro-Arab.

Arafat Visits Egypt

GAZA CITY — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat left here yesterday for Egypt where he was to hold talks with President Hosni Mubarak, a top Arafat adviser said.

Croats, Muslims Should Ignore Serb Boycott, Bosnian PM

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic in an interview published yesterday said Bosnia's Croats and Muslims should ignore a Serb boycott and press ahead with setting up new institutions without them.

Muratovic told the daily Avaz that security fears were not the real reason why the Serbs had boycotted Saturday's inaugural session of Bosnia's joint parliament and presidency.

"The truth is that they don't want to take part in the new joint institutions. They will find other reasons for not coming," he said.

"We can't wait for the goodwill of Pale to get on with the creation of the state and economic reconstruction," Muratovic said.

The joint parliament to which Croat, Serb and Muslim deputies were elected in the September 14 national polls, was intended to help unite Bosnia's two entities - the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska.

But the Serbs boycotted the inaugural session saying it was not safe for them to come to the chosen venue - the National Theater in central Sarajevo, a city still pockmarked by shells fired by Serb forces during the war.

Muratovic said the next Bosnian parliament session could go ahead since over two thirds of the deputies - 31 out of 42 - had been present at the first session, and the required quorum had been reached.

He said he was expecting the two presidency members who took part in the inaugural session - the Moslem Alija Izetbegovic and the Croat Kresimir Zubak - to present a program at the next parliament session.

Chun Takes Appeal Against Death to Court

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - Disgraced former South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan took his appeal against a death sentence to court yesterday amid growing speculation over a political compromise to get him off death row.

Chun entered the Seoul appeals court, nodding only to his lawyers, followed by his jailed successor Roh Tae-Woo and 14 former generals.

An elderly woman in the audience staged an hysterical protest, shouting "Stop it. I want my son back," as the court's presiding judge read an appeal statement from prosecutors.

The protester was immediately surrounded by court guardians and escorted out, triggering a brief outcry by relatives of those killed in the 1980 pro-democracy uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

Chun, 65, was sentenced to death in August for his leading role in the 1979 military coup and the 1980 massacre of more than 200 Kwangju demonstrators, while Roh, 64, was handed a sentence of 22 and half years in prison.

The two former generals were also found guilty of milking millions from businesses during their consecutive presidencies from 1980 to 1993.



KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT: Kuwaiti supporters of tribal candidate Mubarak al-Khrajat eat camel meat Oct. 5 in Kuwait City. Roasted camel meat was lavished on potential voters and search lights criss-crossed the capital's night sky as candidates began their last campaign push ahead of Kuwait's parliamentary polls Oct. 7. Some 230 Islamist, liberal, tribal and other candidates are competing for a place in the 50-seat National Assembly, the only elected legislative body in a Persian Gulf Arab state.

Kuwaiti Men Vote, Women Protest Exclusion

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT (AFP) - Kuwaiti men went to the polls yesterday to elect a new Parliament as dozens of women demonstrated for

political rights and a liberal newspaper warned against electing Muslim fundamentalists.

Voters were choosing from 230 Islamist, liberal, tribal and other candidates to represent them for the next four years in the 50-seat National Assembly, the Persian Gulf's only elected house and only one with legislative powers.

Around 50 women gathered near a polling station to demand the right to vote and run for elected office, some carrying banners and most wearing blue ribbons symbolizing the women's movement.

"If the people of Kuwait think they are practicing democracy today, we say they are not, because we say they are excluding half the population," said activist and scientific researcher Samira Omar.

Just 107,000 men are eligible to vote from 700,000 Kuwaiti citizens, as some naturalized Kuwaitis and members of the armed

forces, like women, are excluded from voting.

As-Siyassa newspaper urged voters meanwhile not to support Islamist MPs who formed the dominant opposition bloc in the Parliament elected in 1992 and who hope to stand their ground against pro-government candidates.

"Brother voters, don't vote for the supporters of obscurantism and ignorance, those who reject everything which is Islamic," liberal journalist Chamlan Yusef al-Issa wrote.

"Muslim countries where political Islam has assumed power have become a home for anarchy, corruption, civil wars and violations of human rights," Issa said.

Islamists have vowed to make the Sharia, or Islamic law, the sole source of the country's legislation.

Liberals were a vocal opposition, but had fewer seats than Islamists in the last Assembly which was elected after the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait between August 1990 and February 1991.



EREZ CHECK POINT, ISRAEL: U.S. Middle-East coordinator Dennis Ross (C) is flanked by the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations for peace negotiations Saeb Erakat (L) and Dan Shomron during a press conference after the peace talks, Oct. 6 in Erez check point. The talks will continue this week.

(AFP Photo)

NATO Refuses Prior Agreement with Russia on Expansion

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - NATO Chief Javier Solana told Russian Security boss Alexander Lebed yesterday that the alliance will not enter into any prior agreement with Russia before embarking on its planned eastward expansion, a NATO official said.

He said Solana had stated this position unequivocally to Lebed.

Moscow is firmly opposed to the expansion plans - Lebed recently said the project risked sparking a third world war - but NATO officials have tried to allay its concerns, saying there is no threat to Russian security.

Earlier yesterday, Lebed said "we must resolve the problem, firstly by modernizing NATO," and "then drawing up a special relationship between Russia and the alliance which would be enshrined in a legal document."

approach," the NATO official, who wished to remain anonymous.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on September 28 that Moscow and NATO should sign a formal pact to give Russia a say in NATO enlargement.

"We are proposing a parallel approach to the two processes," of enlargement and an accord with Russia. "If one does not succeed, that doesn't mean the other won't work," the official added.

"We want the two processes to converge in a summit of heads of state and government," of NATO member-states, due in mid-1997, the official said.

"The European security system must be based on the free choice of every country. Lebed has clearly understood that Russia does not have the right of veto,"



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: Russian National Security Chief Alexander Lebed faces media upon his arrival in the Belgian capital for a three-day visit, Oct. 6. This is Lebed's first official trip to the West, following a personal invitation by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana.

(AFP Photo)

A Western diplomat said the modernization envisaged by Moscow was turning the North Atlantic Treaty Organization into a purely political body, casting aside its military structure.

"We are rejecting the Russian approach," the diplomat said.

Moscow's former Soviet-era satellites, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, are to date the best placed countries to be asked to join the western military alliance from next year.

Anti-Bhutto Protesters Attack Provincial Assembly Building

LAHORE, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Angry youths attacked the Punjab provincial assembly building with stones as tens of thousands of opposition supporters rallied here yesterday demanding the dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"Oust Benazir, save Pakistan," chanted the crowd, led by leaders of 14 religious and political parties, including national opposition Leader and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

As opposition leaders ad-

Turkish President in Rome for Official Visit

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - Turkish President Suleyman Demirel flew to Italy yesterday for a two-day official visit, the first by a Turkish head of state since 1959.

The visit, at the invitation of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, follows one by the Italian president last year.

Demirel will hold talks with Scalfaro, Prime Minister Romano Prodi and meet business leaders during a trip to Venice.

Speaking at the airport ahead of his departure, Demirel told reporters that the visit would allow him to "present Turkey's views on international and regional issues as well as on the membership aims of the EU."

ressed the massive crowd, hundreds of young men repeatedly pelted the nearby empty assembly building with stones.

Police lobbed teargas shells to repel the attackers.

Later, with the crowd dispersing after speeches, police fired into the air and shot rubber bullets injuring at least two men, witnesses said.

"The rally is a vote of no confidence against the Bhutto government," Sharif said, as the crowd shouted "Go, Benazir

Go."

Sharif accused Bhutto and her Minister husband Asif Ali Zardari of involvement in the "murder" of her estranged brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who was killed in a shoot-out between his guards and police in southern Karachi on September 20.

The opposition leader demanded an inquiry into Murtaza's killing by a supreme court judge, saying the people would reject a probe at a lower level.

Yeltsin Transferred to Sanatorium to Prepare for Surgery

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin left hospital yesterday for a sanatorium in western Moscow where he is to continue preparing for his upcoming heart surgery, the presidential press service said.

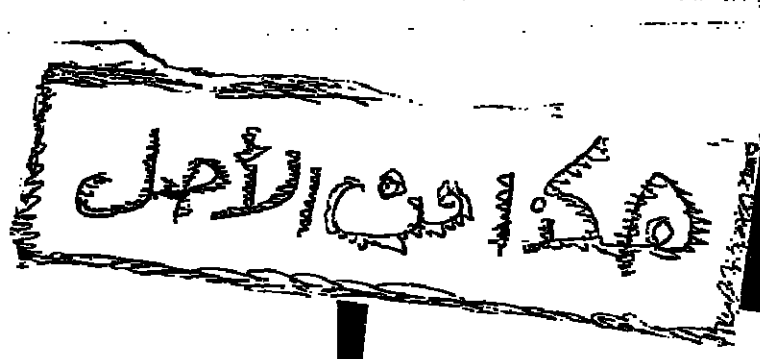
Yeltsin, described as being in a satisfactory condition, was transferred from the Central Clinical Hospital to a sanatorium at Barvikha where he could remain until a bypass operation due to take place before mid-December, a Kremlin spokesman told AFP.

Sergei Mironov, head of the Kremlin Medical Center, told Interfax news agency that Yeltsin was in a "totally satisfactory" condition and that the preparations for the bypass surgery were proceeding as planned.

Mironov said the facilities at Barvikha would enable Yeltsin to move around more and possibly take walks. He would be allowed to do more physically and could also increase his workload. Interfax reported.

Yeltsin, 65, has been hospitalized since September 12 and his workload has been drastically reduced as a chronic heart problem takes its toll. Last week, the Kremlin said Yeltsin was working for two to three hours a day.

But after the transfer to Barvikha yesterday, the presidency immediately moved to indicate a business-as-usual approach, giving details of a meeting later in the day between Yeltsin and Yegor Siroyev, the speaker of Russia's Federation Council or Upper House of Parliament.



IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Eye on Greater East Asia

"The PRC Turns Forty Seven"



BY: BEHZAD SHAHANDEH

The Chinese mainlanders celebrated the birth of the people's Republic of China on October first amid the jostling for power of the top leaders.

Deng Xiaoping still holds the wheel. China's communist patriarch turned 92 on August 22, and wished to attend the handover ceremonies in Hong Kong on 1st July, 1997.

The paramount leader holds no office, has no official post and is so physically feeble that he cannot appear in public. Yet a billion plus believe that he is their ruler and they anxiously wonder whether they can get along without him.

The grave uncertainty about post-Deng China has made China's top leaders jostle for position, forming and reforming alliances as each searches for more security in the post-Deng era. Two high-level conclaves next year - springtime National People's Congress (the Chinese state parliament) and the Communist Party's Seminar 15th Congress in the autumn should settle a raft of personal changes.

The future Chinese leader (or leaders, as some Sinologists have predicted China to have a collective leadership with Jiang Zemin becoming the first among equals) must take this fact into account that now is no time for bold initiatives to solve the longer-term issues that most threaten China's economic health. Instead, it is the belief of this analyst that he or they will stay the course by protecting state enterprises, easing inflation and hoping the non-state sector will grow away their worries.

Deng's China must not be tampered with. The future helmsman must be cautious and not be driven by the slogan's uttered mostly by foreigners emphasizing China's might. The mighty China is a future entity, today's China not being an all-rounder. China's domestic scene abounds in contradictions. Almost any categorical statement about China is subject to challenge, and indeed its opposite may be equally true.

China's dynamic economy is matched by a stagnating polity. Never have so many people experienced so great an improvement in their livelihoods, Deng's miracle being dubbed the miracle of all time. Some Sinologists put Deng on a higher pedestal than Mao in serving the Chinese people.

Yet China has 25 million urban unemployed and 100 million rural underemployed. Though one out of four of the world's largest cranes are busy raising skyscrapers in booming Chinese cities, the supply of housing is no greater than it was when the population was half its size. The Chinese are putting up a tower in Shanghai which will be the tallest in the world, beating the Petronas Towers (The Twins) near completion in Kuala Lumpur. So the Petronas Towers reign as tallest in the world will be short-lived.

Shanghai has a ten-mile strip that has more neon lights than Las Vegas (the city of lights), Hong Kong or Tokyo, but it also has 3.3 million homeless people. And again, Guangdong has 60,000 Avon ladies peddling cosmetics door-to-door (uttering Avon's calling!) but China also has, according to the government, 80 million people living on less than \$35 a year.

But China is moving forward with a speed not experienced in any country ever in history. Its foreign reserves stand at a record \$85 billion, giving Beijing a comfortable cushion whenever it restarts rapid reforms. But the goal has not been realized - a prosperous China, the might of Asia together with Iran, Japan, India and Korea (unified) turning the Asian century into a reality.

Caution is the key word which the top leaders jostling to position themselves comfortably in post-Deng China must observe. Jiang is lobbying for support to revive Mao Zedong's former post of party chairman which was abolished in 1982. Jiang wants to keep the presidency, the military position, and upgrade his party position. Li Peng has moved, though slowly, into the reformist camp and has a strong following in the industrial ministries.

Vice-Premier Li Lanqing and Politburo standing committee member Li Ruihuan, NPC Chairman Qiao Shi are the people to watch in the race for top posts. Next year will, in my view, be a decisive year in the PRC's career. Even the darkest horses, such as deposed party secretary Zhao Ziyang, could reappear if Jiang blames Deng for the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Some 20 Injured in Blasts on British Army Barracks in Ulster

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (AFP) - A double explosion inside a British army base at Lisburn southwest of Belfast yesterday injured as many as 20 civilians, some seriously, police, army and hospital officials said.

A military source said it appeared the blasts were from a heavy mortar attack. Mortars are one of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) traditional weapons.

A police source said earlier it was "likely" that bombs were responsible for the explosions.

The first blast occurred around 4:30 p.m. (15:30 GMT), the second about five minutes later, the army said.

A spokesman for Lagan Valley Hospital said between 15 and 20 injured were being treated or en route to the hospital, some with head and leg injuries.

A huge pall of smoke drifted over the town and fire crews and ambulances were sent to the scene. Military helicopters hovered overhead.

The security forces could not confirm that bombs had exploded, but the two blasts, minutes apart appear to have been at the perimeter of Thiepval barracks.

Afghan Government Forces Inflict 120 Casualties on Taliban

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - In a counter attack against the Taliban militia, the Afghan government forces killed and wounded 120 Taliban soldiers on Sunday night, a statement from Afghanistan's Embassy in Tehran, released yesterday, said.

The offensive was launched in Gulbahar, Oulang and Dareh Shatal regions, northeast of Parwan Province, the statement added.

These regions located southwest of Panjshir are the most important bases of Ahmad Shah Massoud forces.

The Taliban troops retreated to Ahangaran region, west of Oulang leaving behind many corpses and ammunition, the statement said.

Forces faithful to Rabbani's government will continue to fight the Taliban to maintain the sovereign integrity of the nation, the embassy statement said.

Meanwhile, AP reported from Gulbahar that Taliban troops, using gunships, tanks and heavy artillery, tried yesterday to flush out former government troops hiding in the northern Panjshir Valley.

Witnesses said a Russian-made Hind helicopter gunship dodged anti-aircraft fire from soldiers loyal to former military Chief Ahmed Shah Massoud.

They said fighting was sporadic for most of the day, but Taliban soldiers claimed to have captured another hilltop.



KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: The Taliban administration's acting Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghaus addresses a press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul, Oct. 6. Ghaus issued a warning to northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam to cooperate or face attack, and not to seek the help of neighboring countries.

(AFP Photo)

"Even now we ask Massoud to surrender his heavy weapons and himself," Taliban Foreign Minister Mullah Ghaus told reporters in the capital. At Gulbahar, a village a few kilometers (miles) behind the Taliban lines, shops, packed with fresh fruit and vegetables, opened for the first time since the offensive began last Friday, they said.

Littered among the shops were hundreds of spent shells and rockets. Tanks and rocket launchers were parked in the middle of the dusty market.

"There was some fighting last night and today we have done

some more," said Taliban commander who identified himself only as Jaliluddin.

Since seizing the Afghan capital of Kabul, 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Gulbahar, the new Taliban rulers have been chasing former government soldiers north. They are now holed up in the Panjshir Valley in the Hindu Kush mountains.

A stronghold of Massoud's, the Panjshir Valley is a difficult and dangerous battlefield. Throughout the Soviet invasion in the 1980s Massoud fought Russian soldiers from his many bases inside the valley.

Russia Warns Against Recognizing Chechnya

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (Reuters) - Russia threatened on Sunday to sever diplomatic relations with countries recognizing rebel Chechnya or holding separate talks with its leaders.

Sergei Stepashin, the head of the government's Administrative Department, told NTV television

that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov had issued the threat during talks with several ambassadors in Moscow.

"Primakov told several ambassadors in Moscow that if their countries hold separate talks or recognize Chechnya's independence, Russia can raise the

question of severing diplomatic links with these countries," he said.

Stepashin said ambassadors of the three Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, where support for Chechen separatists is strong, had been among those addressed.

He also said President Boris Yeltsin had issued fresh instructions to the Russian team negotiating with the Chechen separatists reaffirming his opposition to granting full independence to Chechnya.

Moscow agreed with the rebels in August to withdraw its troops, sent in to quell Chechnya's independence bid in December 1994, and to defer a decision on Chechnya's future political status for five years.

However the two sides later gave conflicting interpretations of the peace deal.

Moscow officials have insisted that Chechnya can hope only for a large measure of autonomy, but not full independence.



SENKAKU ISLANDS, JAPAN: Boats with Taiwanese and Hong Kong protesters on board departure near one islets of the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea Oct. 7 after they planted the Chinese flags in a gesture to claim sovereignty over the islands.

(AFP Photo)

The World at a Glance



BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI - Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army yesterday accused Hutu rebels of killing a woman and two of her children at Ndava in the central western Muramvya Province.

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI - Burundi's main Hutu Party, the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), will not take up its seats yesterday when Parliament meets for the first time since a July coup, its secretary-general announced.

ZAGREB, CROATIA - International experts have finished digging at a mass grave site thought to contain the bodies of hospital patients killed after the eastern town of Vukovar fell to the Serbs in 1991, the U.N. said yesterday.

KATHMANDU, NEPAL - Two American climbers are missing and presumed dead after they were swept away by a massive avalanche on Mount Annapurna IV, a Tourism Ministry official said yesterday.

BEIJING, CHINA - An official from China's State Council confirmed yesterday that Yao Wenyuan, one of the notorious "Gang of Four," was released at the end of his 20-year prison sentence on Saturday.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA - Dozens of South Koreans staged an angry protest outside the Japanese Embassy here yesterday after Japan's Liberal Democrats (LDP) included a claim to disputed islets in their election platform.

(DISPATCHES)

IRAN'S ORIGINAL HOUSE OF AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE

Japanese Restaurant
No. 30 Shahid Kodami (Bijan St.)
Vanak Sq., Tehran

Tel: 8773735 & 8776301
LUNCH 12:00-15:00 DINNER 18:30-23:00



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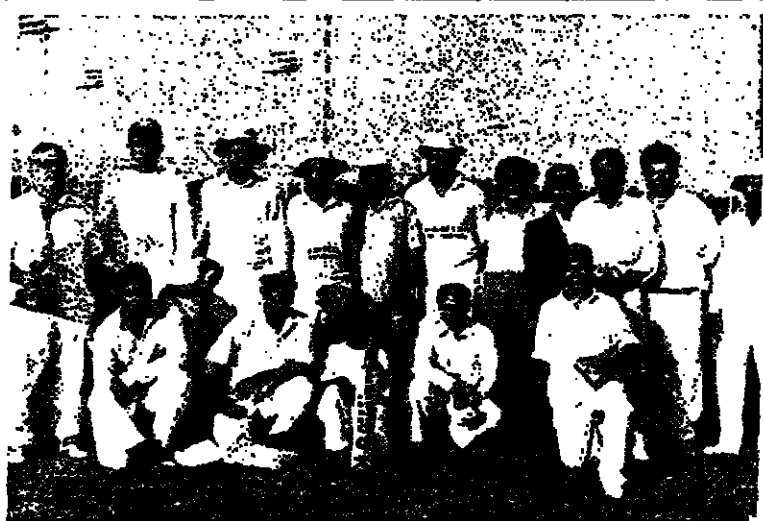
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Woods Claims First Pro Win
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA (AFP) - Tiger Woods, playing only his fifth tournament as a Pro., beat Davis Love at the first hole of a sudden-death playoff Sunday to win the Las Vegas Invitational. Woods, 20, started the day four shots adrift of Ronnie Black, while Love held second place overnight.
He carded a 64 in the fifth and final round, then parred the first playoff hole as Love took bogey. The victory gives Woods a two-year exemption for regular PGA tour events, and qualifies him for the season-opening tournament of champions and all major tournaments in 1997.

Sports Highlights



Meraj Wins Friendship Cup

IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK

TEHRAN - Meraj Sports Club (MSC) beat Indo-Iranian Cricket Club by 80 runs in the final of Friendship Cricket Tournament. IICC Captain Manpreet Singh put MSC in to bat after winning the toss. He must have regretted his decision of giving MSC to bat first.

MSC openers Salimian and Dehghanpour gave a solid start to their team, by adding 156 runs for the opening partnership scoring at an average of 6 runs per over. The first wicket fell in the 26th over when the score was 157 when Dehghanpour was caught by Meeti off Manpreet for 73 runs made with the help of 7 fours and 2 huge sixes.

Salimian then continued with his batting form to complete his century in the 40th over. MSC scored 272 runs for the loss of 2 wickets. Salimian remained unbeaten on 106 and Hussein Abbasi on 24. Nariman was the other batsman out for 36 runs. Honey took 1 for 54 and Manpreet 1 for 41 runs.

IICC chasing the huge target of 272 runs in 40 overs were soon in trouble when Nariman uprooted the off stump of opener Vikas in the 2nd over with the score at 5.

Manpreet was next to go when the total was 56. He made 23 runs. Next batsman Dilpreet was deceived in flight by MSC Skipper Shapur Izadyar and was bowled for only 1 run. IICC were 62 for 3 in 15 overs. Their only hope was on their batsman Mukesh Kriplani. He did not last long under the pressure of MSC bowlers and tight fielding.

He was well caught by Ismaili off Salimian for 29 runs. IICC would have been all out below 150 runs had it not been for some brilliant batting by Yogeshwar. He made quick 33 not out with 3 fours and 2 huge sixes.

IICC made 192 runs for 9 wickets in 40 over. Juggoo scored 12, Meeti 11 runs. Salimian took 2 for 15, Shapur Izadyar 2 for 43, Mohammad Reza Dehghanpour 1 for 12, Nariman 2 for 33 and Ismaili 1 for 32.

Salimian was named "Man of the Match." Mohammad Bagher Zolfagarian, General secretary of Baseball Association was the chief guest and presented the prizes along with other Iran Cricket Council member Syed Nazir Abedi.

Salimian was named Man of the Series and young Indian School student Mohammad Reza Dehghanpour was named as best Junior Player and was awarded with a prize.

In order to encourage cricket in Iran, Abbas Ali Meraj presented 200,000 Rials to the Winning Team, 100,000 Rials each to Salimian, Mukesh Kriplani and Abbas Ismaili for the best batsman, bowler and fielder respectively.

Shirazi from ACC was named as the Most Disciplined Player of the Series. The above nomination was made by the official Federation Empire Mr. Nezar Amirbeigi.

The Sponsor of the Tournament Mr. Juggoo Sawhney delivered a speech and the winding of the tournament was with cheers and hope for long lasting friendship among the participants.



Huber Defends Title at Leipzig Open

LEIPZIG, GERMANY (AP) - Anke Huber of Germany successfully defended her title at the \$450,000 Leipzig Open Sunday, besting Croatia's Iva Majoli 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

The 21-year-old huber, seeded fourth, advanced to the finals after world No. 1 Steffi Graf pulled out of the WTA tournament Saturday, hours before they were to meet in the semifinals. Graf blamed a flare-up of a knee problem that has bothered her since Wimbledon in June.

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

Former United Favorite to Manage Man City
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (AFP) - Steve Coppell is the new manager of First Division Manchester City, ending the club's 42-day search for Alan Ball's successor. Coppell, whose playing career with Manchester United and England was cut short by injury, will travel north from his London home later on Monday to meet chairman Francis Lee and club officials.
Coppell has taken the job after resigning as technical director at Crystal Palace just 12 days after current palace boss Dave Bassett, who replaced Coppell as manager at Selhurst Park, turned down the Maine Road job.

VOL. III, No. 572 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Tuesday October 8, 1996, Mehr 17, 1375, Jumada I 24, 1417



HELSINKI, FINLAND: Swiss Ramon Vega (L) and Finland's Marko Myrri (R) fight for the ball during their World Cup qualifier at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium Oct. 6. Switzerland won 3-2.

(AFP Photo)

Italy, Netherlands Win World Cup Openers

LONDON (AP) - The Netherlands and Italy, perhaps the most disappointing teams in last summer's European championship, began their 1998 World Cup campaigns with victories on late rallies.

In their first games since this summer's debacle in Euro '96, the Dutch won 3-1 at Wales, and Italy defeated Moldova 3-1 in World Cup qualifying games, two of nine played Saturday and Sunday across Europe.

Two other games were played in the CONCACAF region on Sunday, Panama and El Salvador drew 1-1 and Trinidad and Guatemala also tied 1-1.

In Cardiff, Wales, Pierre Van Hooijdonk came off the bench Saturday in the 70th minute and scored goals in the 72nd and 75th to help the Dutch overcome Wales' 1-0 lead and finally beat 38-year-old goalie Neville Southall.

Southall made almost a dozen acrobatic stops in the match to frustrate the Dutch, who got their final goal in the 79th on a header by Roland de Boer. Dean Saunders gave Wales a 1-0 lead in the 16th on a goal that was allowed to stand although a television replay showed it was offside.

Wales leads Group 7 with six points from two wins over San Marino, one of the weakest teams in world soccer. The Dutch, who were eliminated in the quarterfinals of Euro '96, picked up three points with the victory to move into a second-place tie with Belgium.

In Moldova, Fabrizio Ravanelli gave Italy a 1-0 lead in the 8th minute, but Moldova's Alexandru Curteanu scored the equalizer three minutes later on an Italian defensive lapse. Pierluigi Casiraghi scored the winner in the 68th and Ravanelli got his second three minutes later.

The Italians, knocked out in the first round of Euro '96, are tied atop Group 2 with England with three points each. England won earlier at Moldova 3-0.

In other games Saturday, in Group 4: Estonia 1, Belarus = Latvia 0, Scotland 2. In Group 8: Lithuania 2, Iceland 0. In Group 9: Northern Ireland 1, Armenia 1, Ukraine 2, Portugal 1.

Colts, Last to Fall

BUFFALO, NEW YORK (AP) - Steve Christie's 39-yard overtime field goal on Sunday gave Buffalo a 16-13 victory over the Indianapolis colts, who became the last National Football League team to lose this season.

Christie had tied the game with a 37-yarder with 15 seconds left in regulation.

Todd Collins, who started his second game in place of injured Jim Kelly, completed 23-of-44 passes for 309 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions as Buffalo moved into a tie with Indianapolis for the American Conference East lead.

Backup quarterbacks had varying fortunes in a driving rainstorm in Miami, where John Friesz made his first start of the season for Seattle and threw three long touchdown passes as the lowly Seahawks stunned the Miami Dolphins 22-15.

Friesz replaced slumping Rick Mirer at quarterback and was 18-of-32 for 301 yards.

The Dolphins, with Craig Erickson standing in for injured star Dan Marino, lost their second straight game after opening with three straight wins.

Miami held a 15-14 lead when

linebacker Dwight Hollier picked off Friesz with 2:43 to go. But the Dolphins were unable to get a first down and a punt bounced into the end zone, setting up the Seahawks at the 20.

Friesz threw two incompletions before he found Brian Blades streaking across the middle. Blades caught the pass as cornerback Calvin Jackson dove to make a deflection. Blades turned it up.



ELVIS GRBAC

field down the left sideline, outracing Gene Atkins to the end zone.

Denver temporarily took possession of first place in the AFC West with a come-from-behind victory over San Diego.

John Elway threw for 323 yards and four touchdowns as the Broncos erased a 17-point deficit to win 28-17. They could be joined at the top of the AFC West on Monday, when Kansas City play Pittsburgh.

At the other end of the AFC, the New York Jets' nightmare continued as they lost \$25 million quarterback Neil O'Donnell for four to six weeks in a 34-13 loss to Oakland, the Jets' fifth straight loss this season.

O'Donnell, who took Pittsburgh to the Super Bowl last season, suffered a separated shoulder.

In the National Conference, Minnesota and Green Bay both won to stay tied for the lead of the NFC Central.

San Francisco continued their dominance of the St. Louis Rams with a 28-11 victory. Elvis Grbac, playing in place of injured quarterback Steve Young, threw three touchdown passes.



TEHRAN: University of Tehran's sorority members atop Darband heights, north of Tehran during Sacred Defense Week September 22.

کتابخانه ملی

U.S. to Clear Large Portion of U.N. Debt

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United States has approved \$660 million for the United Nations, which should clear a major portion of the U.S. debt to the world body by mid-January, a U.S. official said Saturday.

The official told AFP that the funds were contained in a spending package for the new U.S. fiscal year starting October 1 adopted by the U.S. Senate last Monday, following approval by the House of Representatives.

As of last Wednesday, following receipt of a U.S. contribution of \$150 million, the total U.S. debt stood at \$1.5 billion, according to U.N. figures.

The world body, which is in the throes of an unprecedented financial crisis, is owed a total \$2.5 billion by member states.

The \$660 million would be

used to pay off the U.S. regular budget dues for 1996 and would be a down payment towards clearing the arrears, according to the official.

The United States, the biggest U.N. contributor but also the largest debtor, had linked payment to U.N. reform.

Some Congressional leaders had suggested that funds would not be forthcoming as long as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali remained at the helm.

Washington's failure to pay its dues in full and on time has led to a barrage of criticism from other U.N. states, including from among U.S. allies.

A score of speakers at the current U.N. General Assembly session have raised the issue in strong terms.

Beijing Protests Against Washington Penalties for Textile Shipments

BEIJING (AP) - China issued a lengthy protest Sunday against a U.S. decision to charge Beijing \$19 million for shipping textile products in violation of a 1994 accord.

A senior trade ministry official accused the United States of failing to conduct full investigations into the issue and of not providing clear evidence of China's wrongdoing, the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

The dispute over textile quotas was the latest in a series of trade tiffs that have helped to sour ties between the two countries.

The Xinhua report reiterated China's original complaint that the U.S. side had violated the agreement when it cut China's textile export quota.

In some cases, the textiles shipped to the United States did not originate in China, the report quoted Li Dongsheng, director of the trade administration department of the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation,

as saying.

Li said U.S. trade officials had failed to fully consult with their Chinese counterparts on the cases in question. In one case, he said, unscrupulous foreign businesses had affixed fraudulent labels to garments.

"The American side neither fully consulted with the Chinese side, nor provided clear evidence about the charging," he said.

In announcing the penalties last month, the United States had said its customs service had found China was attempting to circumvent textile export quotas by shipping more than 2 million garments to the United States through other countries.

China contended that the United States was cutting its export quota by 195,001 dozen items without "ample evidence" of shipment through third countries. It demanded more consultations on the issue and threatened retaliation if the U.S. penalties were not withdrawn.

Kuwait, Exxon Sign Deal for New Oil Field

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - The state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and American oil giant Exxon on Sunday signed \$1.5 billion deal to develop an oil field in the emirate, Kuwaiti officials said.

The 18-month agreement provides for the creation of a joint team to draw up a development plan for the Kiza al Marw Oil

Field, discovered late last year, said KOC spokesman Khaled Yussef Al-Faleh.

KOC has already signed cooperation accords with another U.S. oil company, Chevron.

Kuwait is a member of the organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) and currently has a quota limit of two million barrels of oil per day.

Africa's Oil Needs at Center of Cape Town Conf.

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - Ministers, businessmen and investors met here Monday to discuss Africa's oil industry, with South Africa, Congo, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria the main targets for development.

Africa produces more than 300 million tons of oil a year, 10 percent of the world total, but is at the bottom of the list as a consumer. The Africaoil conference, the third to be held, will cover the continent's role both as a supplier and a user.

"Prospective studies are a very important topic because all the emerging economies have a huge energy demand," said John Greensmith, managing director of BP Africa.

For host country South Africa, the continent's largest consumer,

the conference comes as it is seeking to develop refineries that were mostly built in the apartheid era in the worst urban fringe areas.

One possibility is to relocate the refineries elsewhere in the region, as the government proceeds with plans to privatize the industry, particularly natural gas producer Mosses.

Egypt and Congo are also expected to reveal schemes for shaking up their oil sector, while Gabon and Eritrea will put forward possibilities for investment.

Nigeria is Africa's largest producer, with 93.1 million tons a year, and contains a third of the continent's reserves, but its oil industry has serious structural problems which will also figure in the conference discussions.

Wider EMU Group Raises Doubts Over Credibility

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Unbridled optimism over the EU's chances of launching a common currency on time has gripped investors and politicians, masking a series of challenges ahead which could make for a bumpy ride.

Among the more difficult choices facing European Union leaders, who met here this weekend to discuss the future of Europe, is how to create a credible Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) that links as many nations as possible.

The wish to cast the net as widely as possible stems from the desire to avoid a split in the union along monetary fault lines.

Such an outcome could lead to more substantive political divisions and endanger the EU's larger goal of closer cooperation, integration and eventual enlargement to central and eastern Europe.

Analysts say the crux of the matter is whether the planned single currency, the Euro, can achieve credibility among markets and investors, while at the same time maximizing political harmony.

This debate has taken on greater urgency with countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal engaged in an all-out sprint to be among the first wave of single currency participants.

Speaking to Reuters financial television this weekend, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres said both Spain and Portugal would be ready for the single currency's launch, set for January 1, 1999.

"It is a very strong commit-



ANTONIO GUTERRES
ment of both governments, both countries, to join a single European currency at the beginning," he said.

Up to now, it has been widely assumed that monetary union would go ahead with core Europe - Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Austria. Ireland and Finland are often seen as additions to this continental bloc.

Others would follow at a later date, depending on the speed of economic convergence.

For many economists a successful monetary union depends greatly on member economies achieving low inflation rates and currency stability. It is less clear how important budgetary rigor is in safeguarding a currency.

These latter requirements are where most governments have difficulty. A strict reading of the EU's Maastricht treaty provisions on monetary union is that governments must bring their deficits down to no more than three percent of gross domestic product

(GDP) in 1997, the crucial year for deciding who qualifies.

On outstanding debt, the target ceiling for EMU entry of 60 percent of GDP is considered less binding - entry can be justified if a government can demonstrate that its debt ratio is heading towards that goal.

For a country like Belgium, whose debt level is well above 100 percent of output, most think the EU will let it slip by without much problem given its long record of currency stability and low inflation.

But that is where the problems begin. Others can argue that they too should be judged more leniently on the debt requirement. Portugal's Guterres, sensing an opening, told Reuters that if the EU wanted to include Belgium, it would have to look at the debt criterion "as a tendency, not as a fixed level."

"Whether you let countries like Italy and Spain join in 1999 depends very much on what they do with Belgium," says Charles Goodhart of the London School of Economics.

Yet if Belgium's inclusion flings open the door to more questionable candidates, analysts say the credibility of a common currency could be weakened at the start.

"I think you are already seeing a recognition in the markets that EMU is going to be a political project," said one New York Fund manager.

"If that perception grows, you have to ask yourself whether you want to own dollars or the Euro," he added.

Int'l Conf. to Address Infrastructure Development in Asia, Pacific

TEHRAN (United Nations Information Center) - An action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific is among the documents expected to be adopted by the Conference on Infrastructure, to be held in New Delhi, October 23-29, which is being organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Ministers from 51 member states and nine associate members of ESCAP are expected to adopt a declaration and launch an action plan on infrastructure development at the conference, which will be divided into two segments: A meeting of senior officials, which will take place October 23-26; and a ministerial segment, October 28-29.

In a departure from previous practice at ESCAP meetings, the ministerial segment will be jointly inaugurated on October 28 with a private-sector organized event called "World Infrastructure Forum - Asia 1996", which will continue on October 30 and 31.

A key policy issue to be addressed at the Conference is the creation of a favorable climate for private-sector participation in a development process. According to ESCAP estimates, between 1993 and 2000 approximately \$1,500 billion would be required for infrastructure development in the Asia-Pacific region. Out of that required amount, \$500 billion has already been made available. Consequently, the financial gap for new infrastructure development projects amounts to around \$1,000 billion, without taking into

account massive sum required for rehabilitation works.

Discussion at the conference will focus on policy and planning framework of countries, at the macroeconomic and sectoral levels, with special attention to improving the delivery of infrastructure services. The partnership between the public and private sectors will be examined to identify means of encouraging private-sector involvement in financing, management, operations and risk-sharing. Participants will also discuss ways to harmonize road and rail transport in order to enhance international and bilateral trade, transport and tourism.

In addition, the role of infrastructure development in bringing the rural and urban poor into the mainstream of national economic and social development will be

examined, as will measures to reduce the adverse impact of infrastructure development on the environment.

A highlight of the conference will be the launching of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance (AIDA), a tripartite alliance among governments, the private sector and multilateral and intergovernmental organizations that was conceived at the "World Infrastructure Forum - Asia 1994", held in Jakarta. The principal objective of AIDA is to foster greater understanding among its members to the need to enhance investment in infrastructure development in the region.

The conference will also review progress made in phase II (1992-1996) of the transport and communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1994.

India to Block Foreign Airlines From Domestic Market

BOMBAY (AFP) - India is to block foreign airlines bidding to get a foothold in the domestic market, widespread newspaper reports said here Monday.

Civil Aviation Minister C.M. Ibrahim was quoted as saying foreign firms hoping to forge alliances with Indian companies would be blocked. He said details of the government's policy would be announced next month.

Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air have already been allowed to pick up a 40 percent equity stake in India's Jet Airways.

Singapore Airlines Ltd., meanwhile, was hoping to set up a 600-

million dollar tie-up with Indian business group Tata to establish a new airline.

Ibrahim, however, said: "Once the policy is announced, we will tell Jet Airways to cease the foreign investment."

He added that if the Tata Group wanted to establish an airline "let them come on their own, not with Singapore Airlines", adding the government wanted to restore the reputations of Air India and Indian Airlines.

Many of India's fledgling private airlines, as well as Air India and Indian Airlines, had opposed the entry of Singapore Airlines.

Economic Digest

WELLINGTON - Japanese and Europeans have become big buyers of New Zealand government bonds in recent weeks, despite uncertainty surrounding the likely outcome of a general election due Oct. 12, bond managers said last week.

Japan's bond buyers alone have bought more than \$U.S. 2 billion (\$N.Z. 2.9 billion) worth in the past two months.

Market observers said the bond buying boom marks the re-entry of Japanese investors into the market for the first time since the late 1980s.

The strong overseas demand has driven down bond rates by more than 1/2 of one percent in the past two months for July 1998 bonds, from 8.43 percent to 7.8 percent.

The strong offshore interest, which includes German investors, was based purely on New Zealand's high yields, according to observers.

TOKYO - Sales of imported cars, trucks and buses in Japan increased 5.7 percent in September compared to the same month a year earlier to 38,017 units, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said last week.

The modest increase in September's imported car sales came in the wake of a 2.9 percent drop in August - the first year-on-year decline in nearly three years.

The association said September's figure included 7,121 vehicles manufactured overseas by Japanese auto makers, down 28 percent from a year earlier. Excluding these, import sales totaled 30,896, up 18 percent.

U.S.-made cars fell from a year earlier, largely because of a sales decline for Toyota Motor Corp. Toyota has said it would stop importing the Scepter wagons because of slower demand.

German makers did well in September. Volkswagen reported a 70 percent surge in its sales on the popularity of the new Polo compact.

SYDNEY - Post and Telecom Corp. of Papua New Guinea has provided additional direct telephone calls available to Australia via satellite.

It said 120 digital satellite circuits were added to Papua New Guinea's telecommunications network when a new satellite earth station opened in Lae on Friday.

With the new facility, the company said customers can make direct international calls from throughout the country to Sydney via a satellite owned by Optus communications of Australia.

The new earth station is part of a modernization program to improve telecommunications.

BANGKOK - Hopewell Co. in Thailand announced plans Friday to sign a 30-billion-baht (\$1.2 billion) contract with Germany's Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, ABB Daimler-Benz transportation UK and England's Balfour Beatty to supply the company with trains and train tracks.

The contract will be signed in Germany and United Kingdom early October, according to the company, the Thai subsidiary of Hong Kong magnate Gordon Wu's Hopewell Holdings.

Under the contract, Siemens will supply signaling, rolling stock and safety equipment while ABB Daimler Benz will design and build carriages.

Today in History

1912 - Montenegro declares war on Turkey.

1939 - Germany incorporates Western Poland into Third Reich in World War II.

1954 - Communist Vietnamese forces occupy Hanoi.

1961 - Prince Souvanna Phouma is chosen premier of new provisional coalition government in Laos.

1975 - Heavy fighting in Beirut and northern Lebanon takes at least 25 lives and shatters latest truce between warring Christians and Muslims.

1978 - Israeli cabinet decides to send its entire seven-member ministerial defense committee to renewed peace talks with Egypt in Washington D.C.

1984 - China announces plan to make primary school education compulsory by year 1990 and eradicate adult illiteracy by 1995.

1987 - Tamil militants kill at least 24 people, most of them Sinhalese, as Indian peacekeeping troops fan out to quell violence in northern and eastern Sri Lankan provinces.

1989 - Hundreds of demonstrators begin a sit-down strike in East Berlin, while security forces immediately cordon off the area.

1991 - Director of International Atomic Energy Agency says Iraq was working on hydrogen bomb as well as atom bomb. Fighting between Iraqi troops and Kurdish rebels continues near northern Iraqi town of Sulaimaniya.

1992 - A chartered plane carrying tourists from Europe. Taiwan and China crashes in north-east China killing 13 and injuring 4 people.

Exercise Produces Changes in Blood That May Protect the Heart

By Dr. Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: During a heated discussion at the gym, a statement was made that exercise can change your blood type. The proponent of this theory, a lawyer, was both forceful and convincing. Still ... I don't believe it. Care to act as the judge on this one?

ANSWER: Regular exercise does cause several changes in your blood, but a different blood type is not one of them. That is determined by your genes, not the calories you burn.

Exercise does produce some interesting and healthful changes, though. As you know, regular exercise reduces the risk of a heart attack by lowering blood pressure, reducing body fat and blood cholesterol levels, and making the heart more efficient. The changes that occur to the blood may also play a role in helping to protect the heart.

The major exercise-related changes in blood are a decrease in

hemoglobin concentration and platelet activity and an increase in fibrinolysis. These changes appear to reduce the risk of thrombosis, the formation of a clogging blood clot within a blood vessel. A heart attack is a blood clot in one of the arteries that supplies blood to the heart, so any reduction in the risk of thrombosis is a lessening of the risk of heart attack.

While a decrease in the concentration of hemoglobin in athletes sounds like bad news, it is not due to a shortage of red blood cells, but to an increase in the amount of blood plasma, the liquid portion of blood. This increase in plasma volume is a good sign of aerobic fitness. Increased plasma volume makes blood less viscous, which may decrease the risk of thrombosis.

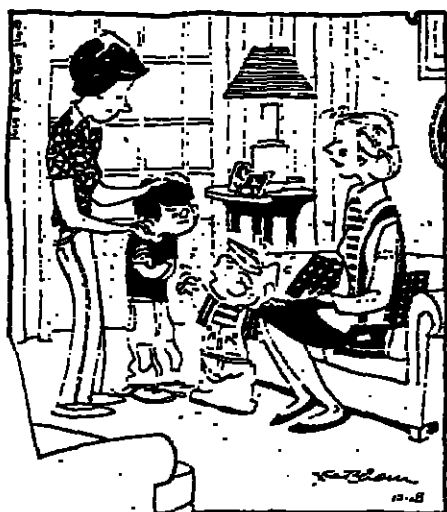
Regular exercise also appears to decrease the action of platelets sticking together (aggregation). Platelet aggregation is the first

step in the formation of a blood clot. This effect may help reduce the risk of heart attack resulting from a clot in the coronary arteries.

The third way that exercise changes the blood is by activating fibrinolysis, the body's way of getting rid of old blood clots. This effect is greatest in those who exercise most, so people who are the most physically fit appear to dissolve clots faster than those who are less fit.

ACROSS MY DESK: Often a patient will ask a physician a most difficult question. "What are my odds?" queries the patient, and the physician must delve deep into personal experience as well as the mass of investigative and scientific literature that may hold a clue to the answer. At best, these answers are educated guesses, for while statistics help present an overview of a given situation, each individual is unique, and the "odds" in each case are different.

DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghton

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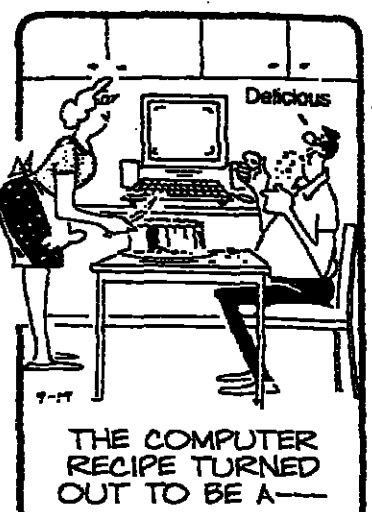
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Print answer here:



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Family: Dipsacaceae



The genus Morina is of Asiatic origin. The species illustrated is the sole representative of its genus found in Europe. It is an erect branched perennial plant growing up to 1.20m high. Leaves stiff, pinnate, very spiny, sessile, arise 3 or 4 together in a whorl. Flowers with corolla long, slender, tubular terminating in two opposite lobes. They are borne in dense clusters arising from the axils of the upper leaves. Blooms of an original white color turn into purple when mature. So, there are always flowers of two different colors on the same plant. This species favors bare places of the mountain zone. Flowers June-September.

HEATHCLIFF



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FEATURE NEWS

PARIS (Reuters) - Good news on lower prices awaits car fanciers as they swarm into the Paris Car Show, which opened to the public on Thursday.

Prices are dropping across Europe and car companies are trying to lure buyers with discounts and free extras like air conditioning and automatic transmissions.

Warranties are being extended. Financing deals are being made more attractive. Offers that cannot be refused are being made for second-hand trade-in cars.

Manufacturers are simply producing more cars than there are customers to buy them.

"There's 16 million units of capacity and a 12-1/2 million market. So obviously some companies have been really aggressive (in their pricing) to try to keep some semblance of high utilization in their plants," General Motors Europe Chairman Richard Donnelly told Reuters.

Earlier on, Italy's Fiat cut the price of its Punto small family car in France by 13.5 per cent. This was in response to across the

Price Cuts Across Europe as Paris Car Show Opens

board price cuts by France's Renault last weekend, which also prompted action by Ford.

Expect more of the same across Europe, analysts say.

"Intensifying competition between manufacturers, additional capacity generated when they already had more than they could handle is going to create lots of price competition. Car prices across Europe are probably as cheap as they've ever been and they can only get more competitive," said Ian Robertson of the Economist Intelligence Unit in London.

Peter Schmidt, analyst with Britain's automotive industry data, adds: "manufacturers were stacked up to the eyeballs at the beginning of this year with cars nobody wanted to buy."

"To move them from airfields and empty factory spaces on to



PARIS, FRANCE: Partial view of the Paris Motor Show which started October 3. A main attraction of the show are the "concept cars", the prototypes used to test customer reactions in designing the car of the future. (AFP Photo)

customers' drives they've had to give incentives and price cuts right, left and center. This is not a one off. This is going to stay with us, it's going to intensify," Schmidt said.

Some industry experts say action should have come a lot earlier for Europeans, who have traditionally had to pay much more for virtually the same cars as their U.S. counterparts.

"Prices are too high here. Net prices are 20 to 30 per cent higher in Europe than the U.S., mainly because of low productivity and high labour costs," said Vic Heylen, head of the European Center for Automotive Studies in Antwerp.

But Heylen wonders if even lower prices can attract European customers, often worried about job security. A concerted effort by European governments to prepare for a single currency by 1999 has led to deflation in many countries, which has constricted sales in sectors like automobiles and personal computers.

"What's missing is market confidence. People here in Belgium, France and Germany are being told to tighten their belts. That's all you hear from morning to night. No wonder people are worried," Heylen said.

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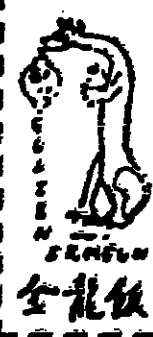
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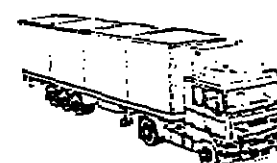
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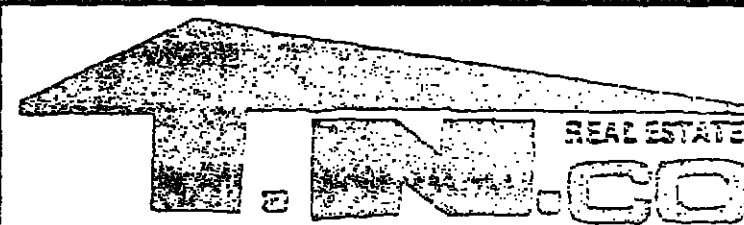
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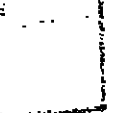
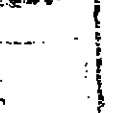
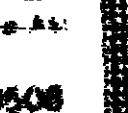
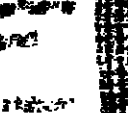
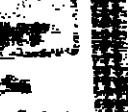
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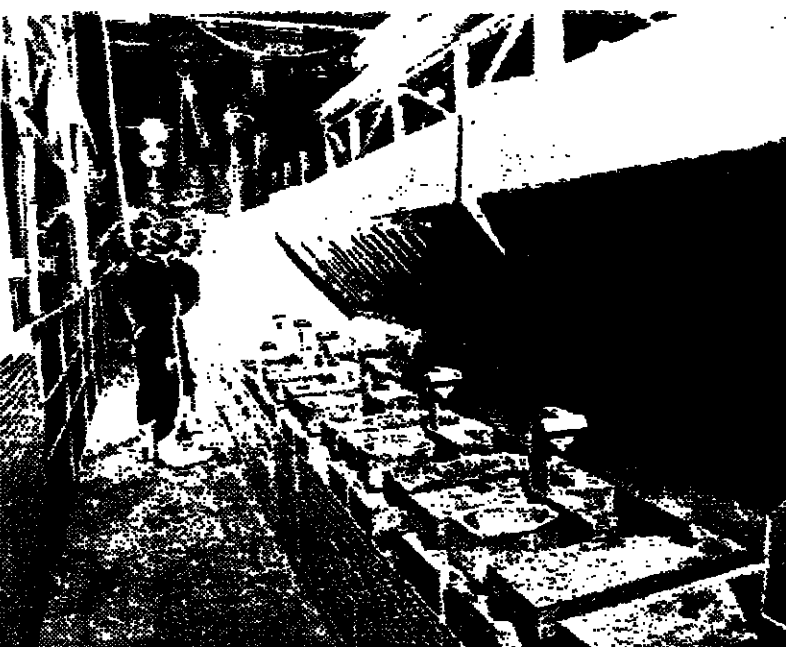
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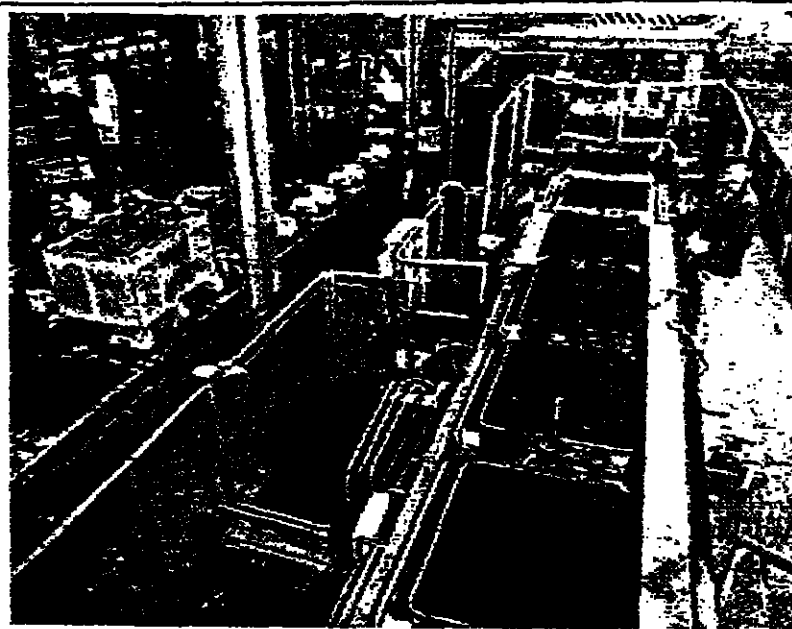
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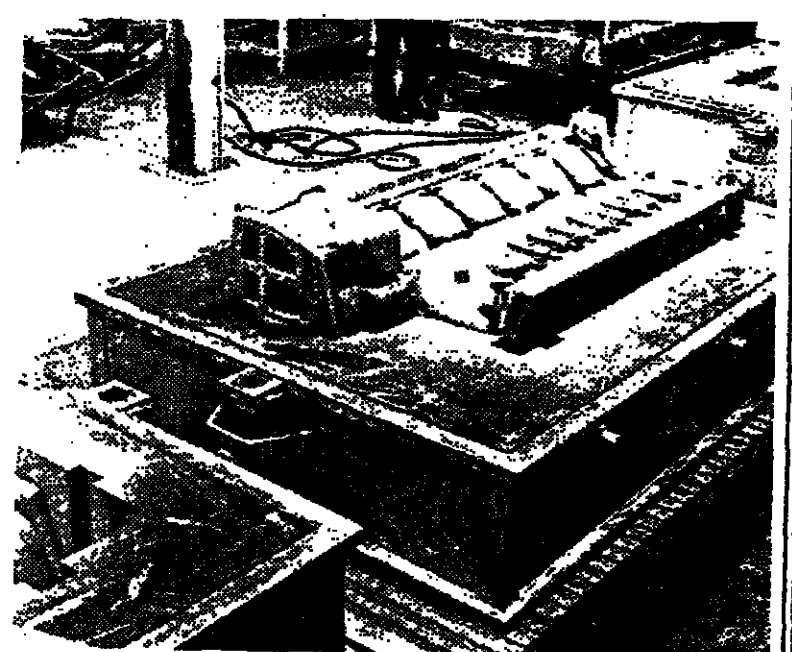
Enjoying high technology and production capacity, our factory is capable to meet the different needs of our vehicle industry for parts made of various types of gray and ductile cast iron in different dimensions.

ICI is equipped with modern machinery, precision control instruments and molding workshop



along with high technology and proficient engineers and meets international standards used by famous companies such as Peugeot and Daimler Benz. We are prepared to receive orders and manufacture parts that can meet international standards.

Thanks to our high technology, equipment and workmanship, we succeeded to receive the ISO 9001 Certificate from TUV Company based in Germany and we are proud to announce that we were the first company in Iran to have received this quality standard from a well-known certification company.



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IRAN

POLITICAL NEWS

Dole Gives Strong Debate Performance, But No Knock Out Punch

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (AFP) - Republican White House hopeful Bob Dole gave an unexpectedly strong performance in Sunday's first debate against President Bill Clinton according to both camps, but he failed to deliver any knock out punches.

"Senator Dole held his own in this debate," said White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, echoing the unanimous view among Clinton and Dole aides after the 90 minute one-on-one.

Neither side claimed a clear victory, but the Dole camp was quick to note that Dole had surpassed expectations.

"President Clinton was on the defensive almost all night and Senator Dole managed to stay on the offensive without being hard-edged," said Republican National Chairman Haley Barbour.

And Panetta credited Dole, who was often billed as too snarling and ill-at-ease to best the glib Clinton, with having the most one-liners.

"The one thing that Senator Dole is very good at is the use of humor," he said. "I think people saw a human side to Senator Dole and that worked very well."

Indeed, that was just what the Dole camp has been working on in their intensive coaching sessions since Thursday, and they were bailing their victory on that count.

"In their first serious look, voters saw Bob Dole comfortable, witty and warm, but they also saw that he was in command of the facts and right on the issues," said Barbour.



HARTFORD, CT, UNITED STATES: Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole (L) and U.S. President Bill Clinton (R) are moderated by Jim Lehrer (C) Oct. 6 during their first Presidential debate in Hartford, CT.

"The whole thing unfolded just as the Dole campaign could have hoped," he said.

Dole, 73, managed to disarm Clinton of the age issue by jesting that he would not make his health an issue in the campaign which has often focused on his age.

Comparing himself to the junk-food loving Clinton, Dole said: "My blood pressure's lower, and my weight, my cholesterol."

And when asked about Clinton's claim that Americans are better off than they were four years ago before he took office, Dole asserted that Iraqi leader "Saddam Hussein is probably better off than he was four years ago."

Dole has blamed Clinton's soft handling of Baghdad for forcing the U.S. military to carry out airstrikes last month in Southern Iraq.

But jokes aside, Dole's attacks failed to rattle Clinton, who kept up a constant refrain on the success of his economic policy, his strong suit and the one he led with in his opening statement.

And other than repeating his promise of a 15 percent tax cut, Dole did little to detail what he would do if he wins the November 5 election.

"He did not land any punches," Clinton's advisor George Stephanopoulos said of Dole.

And that's what Dole needed to do to dent Clinton's double digit lead, according to political analyst Fred Yang.

"Dole came into this debate having to do more than Clinton," he said. "He needed a double or a triple and I guess he got a single ... just keeping it a draw is very good for Clinton."

Yang said the first debate here in the northeastern State of Connecticut probably did not change any minds nor the direction of the campaign, particularly since there is such a low level of interest in a race many view as already sewn up.

(AFP Photo)

Americans Not Better Off than Four Years Ago, Perot

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Americans are not better off than four years ago, Texas billionaire Ross Perot said Sunday after he was excluded from the first of two televised presidential debates.

In an interview on Cable News Network (CNN), Perot disagreed with President Bill Clinton, who said in his debate with Republican Bob Dole that Americans were better off today than they were four years ago.

Asked about it, Perot said, "relatively, no."

Perot, who formed the Reform Party to run for president, said that the jobs created under Clinton were inadequate.

"These are jobs that don't pay enough to support your family, don't pay enough to get you out of poverty," he said, adding that good jobs have gone overseas.

The question, when first posed by then-candidate Ronald Reagan in 1980, stymied Jimmy Carter's bid for re-election. It has surfaced again this year as the ultimate expression of the pocketbook voter.

Perot was not allowed to participate in the debate in Hartford, Connecticut because he didn't have a "realistic chance" of being elected.

In the CNN interview, he said that neither Clinton nor Dole went "to the core of the problem."

"I'm so sick of superficial discussions on critical problems," said Perot. "We are on a financial precipice we cannot let our country fall off of."

"I am terribly disappointed to sit there for an hour and a half and see those two candidates just hand out free candy and play games with the American people," he added.

And he turned his ire on both the Republican and Democratic candidates, saying, "in business you promote people based on performance ... so you certainly wouldn't promote these people."

The Texas businessman warned that increased taxes and the budget deficit put the United States in danger of another depression, like the one that began with the stock market crash of 1929.

Perot has advocated submitting any health care reform to a referendum and slashing the power of the central government, and he took issue with proposals that Dole and Clinton described as bridges to the 21st century.

He turned on a tax hike enacted when Clinton was already president and Dole the senate majority leader, and quipped: "that 1993 tax increase, the biggest in our nation's history, was a bridge to nowhere."

Asked about drugs, Perot advocated a "strong family unit" as the solution and called for a crackdown on drug traffickers.

On Cuba, a flashpoint for Florida where conservative Cuban immigrants have settled, Perot said, "we are not doing a very good job."

Clinton reluctantly signed a law aimed at slowing foreign investment in Cuba, but nothing the United States has done over the past 37 years has been able to dislodge President Fidel Castro.

Perot got 19 percent of the vote in 1992. He had been mired at six percent before the 1992 presidential debates but rose on a solid performance.

92 Percent of Americans Say Debate Had No Effect

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ninety-two percent of Americans in a snap poll after the first televised debate Sunday between President Bill Clinton and his rival Bob Dole said that the contest had no effect on their vote.

Two percent of those surveyed said that they changed their mind and could vote for Clinton while two percent said that they no longer liked Clinton and would vote for Dole, according to the poll by CBS television.

Fifty percent of Americans polled said that they believed that Clinton won the debate, while 28 percent said that Dole did.

Seventeen percent said neither won, CBS television reported.

Meanwhile, a poll by ABC television right after the debate indicated that 56 percent of Americans would vote for Clinton, 41 percent for Dole and two percent for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

The poll showed a slight shift from another survey conducted just before the debate showing 51 percent for Clinton, 39 percent for Dole and six percent for Perot.

Muslims Return to Village in Serb Territory

JUSICI, BOSNIA (Reuters) - Some 60 jubilant Muslim refugees returned to their ruined village in Bosnian Serb-controlled territory on Sunday without incident under rules set down by international mediators.

Russian and U.S. peacekeeping troops patrolled the area as the group moved in accompanied by hundreds of fellow Muslims who lent a helping hand.

"I feel like never before in my life. After four years I am returning to my village," Zejnil Latifovic, 20, said. "This means a lot to me."

Some 100 Muslim men moved back to Jusici last month but Russian troops discovered some of them were carrying submachine guns and grenades in territory that lies inside the so-called "zone of separation", which is banned under the Dayton Peace Accord.

NATO and international mediators persuaded the Muslims to move out for three days to allow for a registration procedure to ensure that those returning had documents proving they were pre-war residents.

Thamwghmissionne Rex (UNCHR) received 117 applications and had approved 60 in time for Sunday, relief officials said.

The Dayton Peace Accord guarantees refugees the right to return to their homes. But nationalist authorities have prevented people from crossing former front lines in a bid to preserve the results of wartime "ethnic cleansing".

Officers in the NATO-Led Peace Force (IFOR) and western mediators were keen to defuse the tensions surrounding Jusici without discouraging displaced people from moving back to their homes.

Russian and U.S. troops stationed nearby patrolled the area to ensure neither the Muslims or Serbs brought in weapons.

The Muslims were jubilant to be coming home even though most of their homes were destroyed or heavily damaged by 3-1/2 years of war.

Before entering Jusici, the village Mayor, Nekir Islamovic, urged the Muslims to cooperate if they met any Serb police.

"If there are Serb police in the village behave yourself and be hospitable," Islamovic said.

At one point, the returning villagers heard that a Serb had killed one of their number and the crowd took up sticks and shovels expecting a fight. But the rumor proved false.

IFOR troops said an elderly Muslim man had fainted when a Russian soldier asked to see his identification.

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WOMEN in society



Women's Affairs Commission Will Enhance Female Role

BY S. HARRAN

TEHRAN - The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) voted last week to create a special commission to address women's issues.

Mashhad member of parliament Marzieh Seddiqi told IRAN NEWS, "The proposal to create the commission on women and family affairs was earlier rejected twice in the 3rd and 4th terms of the Majlis. The same bill

On the necessity of forming the new commission, Seddiqi said, "Since we have not yet reached the ideal Islamic definition of women's roles and rights, we should review our rules and have special plans to fill the current legal vacuum on women's affairs. Also, Iranian women - which make up half the population - have a growing role in society and the parliamentary commission is needed to address their

numbering between 13 to 15 deputies, would be appointed with female deputies having a two-third majority.

Seddiqi, the rapporteur of the Commission on Housing, Urban Development and Transportation, said: "The new commission will enjoy special status and unlike others, can accept MPs who serve on other commissions as well."

She also stressed that the commission would have an agenda which identifies its duties. The scrutiny of all bills and proposals related to women and family issues form the first part of the three-tiered agenda, she said.

"The second part of the agenda is to propose bills dealing with women's issues and work with the Majlis Research Center and relevant executive organs like the Women's Bureau of the Presidential Office, to study problems faced by women," Seddiqi said.

Finally, the commission will discuss the current fiscal budget and propose suitable measures, reflecting the needs of women, to be included in the overall budget, the MP said.

Seddiqi has also proposed to the Regulations Commission that the Women's and Family Commission should take into consideration the youth issue in its agenda.

Seddiqi, who is the member of the board of the Transportation Engineers' Society and gained a seat in the Majlis for the first time in the last elections, said: "In order to adjust the payment of women's marriage portions to current rates, female deputies have recently proposed a bill. We are now working on a plan to establish family courts."

"Unfortunately, at present our courts have merged in a way that family problems and crimes are dealt with in the same courts, damaging the position of women and family in the society," she said.

200,000 Bangladeshi Women Smuggled out in 10 Years

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AFP) - Some 200,000 Bangladeshi women have been smuggled abroad by traffickers during the past 10 years and sold into prostitution, the mass circulation daily Janakantha newspaper reported yesterday.

Quoting a study by rights organization the Bangladesh Women's Lawyers Association, the paper said the main destinations are Pakistan and the Middle East.

The highest known price for one Bangladeshi woman, was reported from Karachi's Rajput area's "human bazaar" was 165,000 rupees (around \$4,700 at current rates), the paper said. It did not say when the incident occurred.

Taliban's Anti-Islamic Stances Against Women



BY F. ETEHAJ

For years, Afghan developments and clashes among various Jihadi groups have served as top political news around the world.

However, recent-day news on Taliban's control over Afghanistan are especially important.

Taliban which appeared some two years back in Afghanistan is mainly comprised of religious seminary students headed by Mullah Mohammad Umar.

During the Afghan people's combat with the Russian occupiers, there was virtually no trace of the Taliban. But this group has recently started fighting the local Jihadi combatants.

Following armed clashes in different parts of Afghanistan and conquest of important cities such as Khandehar and Herat, the Taliban finally seized Kabul on September 26.

In less than 24 hours after the conquest of the Afghan capital, the Taliban issued a statement declaring the set up of a new government based on Islam and banning women from appearing in their offices.

Other reports from Kabul indicate that some members of this group have attacked women in the streets for not having worn proper clothes.

Previously, of course, Taliban had indicated its stances vis-a-vis women. After the conquest of Herat, Taliban had banned girls from going to school and women from going to their offices.

In the meantime, the U.S., while confirming contacts with Taliban leaders over the past two years, has expressed hope that the Taliban's seizure of Kabul would pave the way for national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The U.S. even presented the possibility of establishing full economic relations with Afghanistan following the recent-day developments there.

U.S. State Department spokesman while referring to the Taliban's invitation of the Afghans to return to Kabul, said these statements indicate the group's bent to insure the rights of all Afghan people.

However, this spokesman made no mention of the plight of Afghan women and girls. Why? Aren't they part of the Afghan nation?

The U.S. support for the Taliban is flagrant and overt. Washington is actually supporting this reactionary group which claims to adhere to Islam but which is actually tarnishing the image of this genuine and revolutionary religion.

The world public opinion and true advocates of human rights have always been sensitive toward the plight of women in different countries. So any country which claims to adhere to Islam and pressures the women will actually bar the spread of religion among different nations.

Today after long years of publicity against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world has realized the growing role of Iranian women and the ardent support of the Iranian leaders for the political and social progress of women coupled with preservation of their dignity. Statistics indicate how speedily this progress is in force.

Now under such conditions, the recent Taliban statements only serve to verify the false claims of the enemies of the deprived nations and the Muslims.



However, this spokesman made no mention of the plight of Afghan women and girls. Why? Aren't they part of the Afghan nation?

The U.S. is well aware of the intense religious fervor of the Taliban. But as the Taliban has nothing to do with the genuine and revolutionary Islam, its rule will not bar the U.S. expansionist policies and will only tarnish the image of Islam, a measure that would be beneficial to those advocating global secularism.

Historical documents and the life style of the Holy Prophet (S) indicate that Islam has never created limitations for women. In fact, Islam liberated women from the inhuman paganism in force centuries back. 1,400 years ago, Islam granted the women rights which have been offered to the Western women only during the past century.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei has stated, "If while relying on the Islamic insight, a person decides to deprive women of academic activities, as well as economic, political, and social efforts, he has gone against the commandments of the Almighty."

By merely claiming to adhere to Islam, no group, therefore, has the right to rob the women of these rights, even if its members are garbed as religious seminary students.

U.N. Urges Taliban to Protect Women's Rights

TEHRAN (United Nations Information Center) - The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala-Lasso, has expressed his concern at the situation of human rights in Afghanistan.

In a message to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Norbert Holl on Friday, the high commissioner asked the special representative to urgently convey to the leader of the Supreme Council of the Taliban movement, Mullah Mohammad Omar, his concern and emphasized the legally binding obligations stemming from the large number of international human rights instruments which Afghanistan had ratified and signed over the years.

Among the instruments signed by Afghanistan was the Conven-

tion on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. "The international community is deeply concerned about the respect by the Taliban movement of all the commitments entered into by Afghanistan regarding the protection of all human rights, particularly those guaranteeing the basic rights of women, including the girl child", the high commissioner said.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) said it had continued its activities throughout Afghanistan despite the rapid and tumultuous changes that had recently taken place there. "The crisis had no effect on UNDP-supported rehabilitation efforts in the country", said Alan Brimelow, UNDP security officer.



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was again brought to the floor by female deputies in the Fifth Majlis and was approved by a majority of 136 votes."

The Majlis has a number of commissions which deal with economic, educational, cultural and other issues but, up to now, there was no commission to specifically tackle issues related to women's affairs.

problems."

She said the commission could pave the way for the implementation of real Islamic laws pertaining to women's rights in society and would "charge the executive branch with the responsibility of acting according to those laws."

After final approval of the bill, the special commission,



WORLD WOMEN

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND - Labor Party Leader Helen Clark is moving closer to becoming New Zealand's first female prime minister, as opinion polls show the October 12 general election will be the closest ever.

The ballot will be the first under proportional representation and is likely to result in a coalition government led by current Prime Minister Jim Bolger or Clark.

PARIS, FRANCE - Teva, a new French television channel targeted at women, made its debut Sunday on cable systems run by Lyonnaise Communications.

Teva is 51 percent owned by M6, a French television network best known for mass-oriented programming, with magazine publishers Hechette Filipacchi and Marie-Claire holding the remaining shares.

LONDON, ENGLAND - The Anglican Church in Wales Thursday lifted its ban on women priests, giving women the right to become priests alongside other women in the Anglican Church.

Leaders of the church in Wales narrowly passed the measure by single vote in a move that ended the isolation of their church as the only Anglican body in the Western world still barring women from the priesthood.

LONDON, ENGLAND - Twenty British and Irish women were named last week to mount the first all-female expedition to the North Pole, hauling sledges 1,000 km (625 miles).

(DISPATCHES)

French
Boycot
in Face

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or a note, located at the bottom of the page.